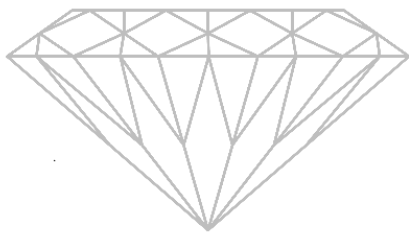


The Midwest Faceter



The Official Newsletter of the Midwest
Faceter's Guild
May 2021

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Officers and Contacts



President: Marie Bellard
Vice President: Virginia Steele
Secretary: Linda Cunningham
Treasurer: Max Lautzenheiser

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About the Guild

The Guild began in 1979 and its mission includes:

- ❖ To promote education and recreation
- ❖ To develop the art of faceting
- ❖ To exchange information related to faceting
- ❖ To provide meetings for those of like interests
- ❖ To promote the achievement of individuals

From the President



Greetings Dear members,

I hope you are all doing well. The Board and I have exciting things to share with you!

With Scott's resignation and as the bylaws state, the vice president steps in as President in the absence of the elected President. Since I took over, I have attempted to establish a structure to facilitate the Guild's work. On behalf of the Board, I am happy to let you know that the Board's hard work is coming along nicely.

We started by creating an agenda, gathering all the topics we needed to address, develop, and make improvements. For example, we will propose an update of the bylaws very soon to comply with the new, unexpected year.

With the use of a Zoom account, it's been relatively easy to accomplish tasks. The Board meets every two weeks on Zoom to fix all the significant issues and reach our main goal as soon as possible, promoting gem cutting education. The Education Committee is already preparing a MWFG Faceting Instructor Academy to train faceting instructors and help the new members

discover faceting with as little struggle as possible--because we all remember our first quartz and the battle we had with it ;). You will be hearing more about this developing Academy in the near future.

Many other positive things are coming, so I will keep you updated.

My time is up, and I thank you for yours,
Marie Bellard - President of the Guild

The Editor's Gem



As the Editor of the *Midwest Faceter* and being a member of the Board of Directors, things have been busy. As you can see the “From the President” message and the “Minutes,” there have been quite a few activities taking place. We are a voluntary organization, so we all are running fast to undertake new directions. The pandemic has made it difficult to plan a seminar for this year, but we have ideas how we can continue to progress despite the need to wash our hands, wear a mask, and social distance—well you know the routine!

Just to add a bit of spice, I have made several short videos (less than 2 minutes each). The first was a fun discovery. I use a microfiber cloth to clean my stone as I am faceting, but keeping the cleaning cloth on my lap, it would invariably fall on the floor. So, I came up with a solution! Cristine Grimm as the Webmaster is in the process of changing the web platform and once completed you will be able to view the videos. I will try to let you know when the videos are available for viewing.

The second video is about how to check your transfer jig to assure that it is properly aligned. If the transfer jig is off slightly, it can cause nightmares in cutting an even girdle when you make the transfer from the pavilion to the crown and your crown facets. That video too will be uploaded soon.

The third video is a short video demonstrating how to charge a BATT lap that was done by Roger Dery. I helped him to make it a complete video, so it too will be uploaded soon. So, standby to hear when they are available.

Look at the benefits of being a Guild member! When other things strike me, I will do more short videos to demonstrate what I hope are helpful demonstration that can help with a faceting challenge.

May all your facets sparkle, Dr. Reg

Minutes from the Last Meeting



MWFG Secretary Minutes – January 30, 2021

The Midwest Faceter's Guild Board met on ZOOM Saturday afternoon January 30, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Kelley.

Present were: Scott Kelley: President, Marie Bellard: Vice President, Max Lautzenheiser: Treasurer, Dr. Reg Williams: Editor of the Newsletter and Linda Cunningham: Secretary. Absent were Cristine Lautzenheiser: Membership Coordinator and Virginia Steele: Historian.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Max presented the treasurer's report and showed us a print-out of MWFG bank activity. It appears that we have approx. \$6000 + in the Guild's account. Virginia Steele was reimbursed for postage accrued for shipping historical newsletters to Cristine to be scanned to the Guild's website for members to access. Other expenditures included fees paid to Midwest Federation for the Guild's yearly dues, and some postage expenses to mail out prizes won at our Christmas Party. Max related that member dues are still coming in. Relating to the dues: Max informed us that members can now pay through PayPal, which appears on our member information on the website. Our bank account was discussed further, and research will be done regarding signatures needed to complete transactions to include the president's signature. Our Treasurer Max will see to this.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Linda reported that she hasn't received the previous secretary's minutes so there was nothing for her to report.

Motions were made and seconded to accept these reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

A recap of the progress MWFG has made over the past few months was brought to the floor. Virginia (Historian) has fulfilled her obligation of sending the historical newsletters to Cristine to be scanned. Max related that Cristine has been very busy working and taking care of her ill father so getting these to the website has been delayed some. It will be an ongoing project but slow. He will report on this progress in a future meeting.

Scott reported that Barb Yost, the previous secretary, has accepted being the future seminar chair. She sent him a detailed message and it was noted that an enormous amount of work goes into the planning. Our organization accomplishes this using only two or three people and there has been a lack of volunteers making the task more difficult. It was also noted that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, MWFG may not be able to hold a seminar for another year.

The Trailer owned by MWFG and its contents are titled to MWFG, however when it is being towed to seminars and such, the person transporting it is responsible for it. This issue will be addressed at a future meeting. There has been no recent inventory or audit and items have been added. Blake, Max, and Barb live in the area where it is stored, and this issue will be addressed when the weather improves. When the task is accomplished, a report will be sent to Scott.

Dr. Reg shared that Shondy Shondelmayer was the only member who replied to “Ask the Expert” feature in the Newsletter. Dr. Reg requested that Max send him his prize of some rough material as was stated in the newsletter feature for new members who participated. Max will take care of this and Scott will send a cover letter to be included with the mailing. Dr. Reg also stated that Shondy will be interviewed and featured in the next Newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott stated again that he would like assistance to get the website up and running so members will have better access but that he needs Cristine's help to share and optimize information to the public. Again, it was related that Cristine has been under a huge amount of pressure helping with her father and work along with other obstacles that were a priority to her time.

Marie briefed us on the topic of Facebook. We have two Facebook pages; one is public, and one is private. Activity on both pages is very low. Max related that in the past there have been problems with these as members have taken advantage of these pages. Apparently, they were not started on behalf of the members of the Guild. These sites need to be “cleaned up”. Dr. Reg suggested that Marie coordinate with Cristine to move forward on this project.

Revising the Constitution and By-laws was the next item up for discussion. The proposed changes appears that these documents could be one and that the Constitution is the first part of the By-Laws and that they conflict with each other regarding the voting methods. As these documents are revised, this issue be addressed. Inclusion of all peoples needs to be addressed and revised as well. An indemnification clause needs to be added to protect board members in case of a lawsuit brought against the Guild. Dr. Reg has proposed clarification of these two documents and a board of three people will be looking it over. It was suggested the board include Scott, Dr. Reg, and Marie. Once it is revised there is a requirement of 30 days for the members to look it over. Max predicted that the vote to revise will probably happen at the end of the year.

A brief discussion was held about donations, and how to handle them to make money for the Guild. Suggestions included creating a store so items could be sold and/or they could be added to swap meets with a percentage of the money made by sellers to go to the guild along with donation item sales. These were JUST brainstorming suggestions, and more discussion will take place at future meetings.

Lastly, Dr. Reg has created a short video about his tip for using a lanyard to hold a lint free wiping cloth when he facets. It was not possible to share the video at the meeting, but he sent

it to us afterward. It was very interesting and would be a good feature of our website and/or added to Facebook once those media sites are cleaned up.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cunningham-Secretary

Midwest Faceter's Guild Special Board Meeting

February 18, 2021

Called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Marie Alice Bellard (VP), Max Lautzenheiser (Treasurer), Dr. Reg Williams (Newsletter Chair), Barb Yost (Seminar Chair), Blake Glupker (Past President), Virginia Steele (Historian & Past President), Cristine Grimm (Membership Chair & Past President)

Absent: Scott Kelley (President)

Dr. Reg thanked everyone for attending and indicated that he scheduled the meeting via his UMich Zoom account because the Faceter's account was unavailable. Because of the President's absence the board moved to executive session.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:47 p.m.

Cristine Grimm, acting Secretary

Midwest Faceter's Guild Special Board Meeting

March 4, 2021

Present: Marie Bellard, Max Lautzenheiser, Dr. Reg Williams, Blake Glupker, Cristine Grimm, Virginia Steele

Because of the continued absence of the president the board met to continue discussion of the previous meeting and moved to executive session.

Cristine Grimm, acting Secretary

MWFG Board Meeting: March 18, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Marie Alice Bellard, Virginia Steele, Linda Cunningham, Max Lautzenheiser, Dr. Reg Williams, Barb Yost, Ruth Ann Lehner

DISCUSSION TOPIC: How to strategize for the future

What steps need to be taken to develop a strategy to plan for the future of the Guild and which items to prioritize so the Guild can design a method to proceed. How to tie specific committees together to proceed with plans. Barb and Dr. Reg have talked by phone regarding this and will share findings with the board in a future meeting.

Ultimately, after much discussion, the revision of the By-Laws and Constitution of MWFG is the first priority. If it is determined that an updated version is needed, the board will suggest changes, then Guild members will be advised and will vote to accept or reject the revisions. In the coming days the board members will all receive what is believed to be a current and true copy of these documents to look over. Marie has named the board members as her committee to discuss and make necessary changes if needed. She will call a meeting for discussion in two weeks.

Following updating the By-Laws and Constitution, the board will then consider what will be the second item of priority to update.

In addition to this discussion, The Education Committee has been selected by Barb Yost. Dr. Reg, and Virginia have also volunteered to be on her committee.

The meeting ended at approximately 9:30 pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tentatively April 1, 2021 8:30pm

Linda Cunningham – Secretary

April 6, 2021

MWFG Board Meeting: April 1, 2021 8:30 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Marie Alice Bellard, Virginia Steele, Linda Cunningham, Max Lautzenheiser, Dr. Reg Williams, Ruth Ann Lehner

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Revising and Updating MWFG Constitution and By-Laws

The Board members met and discussed revision and updating of the Constitution and By-Laws.

The documents were on screen-sharing and items that needed updating were discussed line by line with Dr. Reg adding revisions or striking through items that were no longer relevant. He will send the revisions to us in the next couple of days for us to review*.

*The revisions were received by the board members April 2nd.

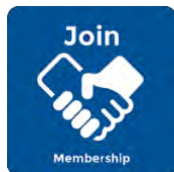
The meeting ended at approximately 10:30pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tentatively April 22, 2021 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Cunningham - Secretary

Membership



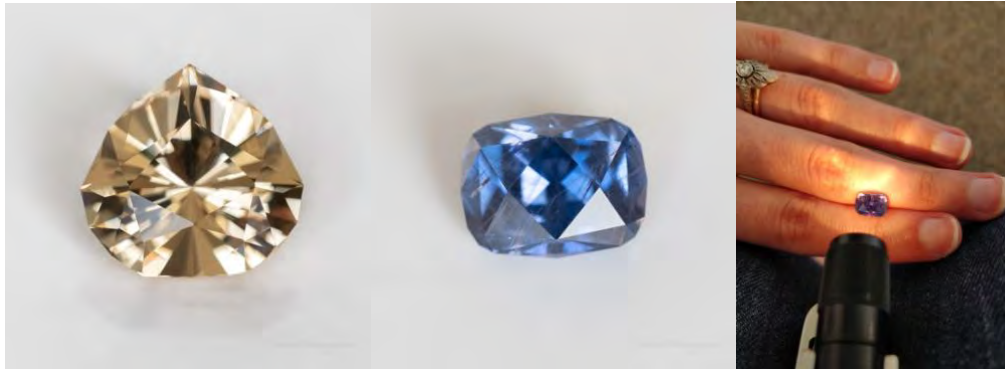
Welcome to new Guild members:

Daniel and DeAndra Hogan, Fort Wayne, Indiana

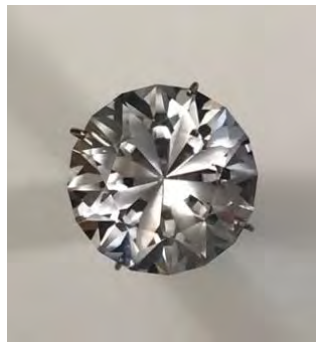
A Cut Above



Here are some beautiful gemstones that our members have cut:



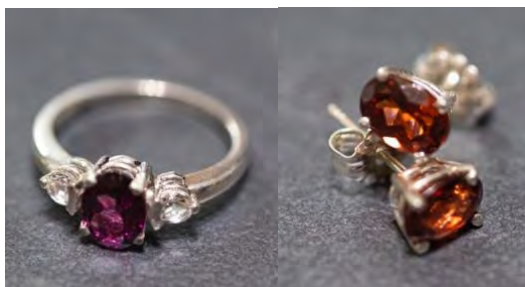
These incredible stones were cut by President **Marie Bellard**. The first is a yellow Heliodor from Brazil, cut by her own design. It is a 3.47 carat gem and 10.26 x 10.63 x 6.79 mm and is loupe clean. The blue stone is a Sapphire from Umba, Tanzania, cut by her own design, and is 3 carat gem, which has rutile inclusions visible.



Secretary **Linda Cunningham** cut this gorgeous Rose de France amethyst, which has a hint of pink in the sunlight. It is 12 mm in diameter and is 7 carats.



Here are a couple stones that **Eric Peterson** cut. The first is very light pink YAG (yttrium aluminum garnet) called Abode. The original design was done by Shondy Schondelmayer and is 20 mm and 29 carats. The second is called Squartuguesse designed by Marco Voltolini and is cubic zirconia. The gemstone is 10 mm and 16 carats.



A couple of settings that **Dr. Reg** created: One is an oval garnet ring in sterling silver. The garnet is 6.00 x 7.99 mm and 1.30 carats with two created accent white sapphires that are 3.5 mm and .044 carats each. In addition, here are two oval garnets (a different tone of red) in sterling silver earring settings. The oval stones are 5.2 x 7.1 mm and 1.20 carats each.

Rock and Mineral Shows

Most shows have been cancelled due to the pandemic, but here is one that may work.

LGMS Rock Swap May 22, 2021

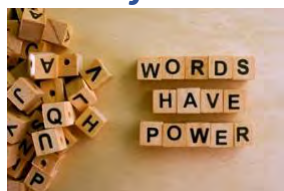
Hi Fellow Rockhounds,

The Livingston Gem and Mineral Society is holding an outdoor rock show on May 22nd, with Covid spacing, for up to 22 booths. The event will be held rain or shine and indoor bathrooms are available. With many regular indoor rock shows being cancelled due to the virus, you won't want to miss this great opportunity to add to your collection. If you have questions, please contact our Show Chairmen:

Ed Oller (810) 241-8801
Lori Irvin (810) 820-0494

Cinda Dawson
LGMS Vice President
lgms.mich@gmail.com

Words from a New Faceter



A person learning to facet just over a year ago graciously agreed to be interviewed about his experiences in faceting. The interview took place on March 2, 2021 and he had some thoughtful insights as well as ideas to help other beginner faceters. Here is his interview:

I am Shondy Schondelmayer and am 31 years old from Michigan. I have cerebral palsy, which manifests itself mostly in my left hand and my balance and this creates a challenge in faceting.

Q: When did you first get interested in faceting?

It was a year ago, February 2020. Actually, we came home with some CZ rough from Shelby Gem Factory that was closing. I did not think much about it, but the next day I went by the rough and wanted to cut it. I don't know why, or completely what it was but somehow, I wanted to make it look perfect with good lines.

Q: Had you taken any classes in faceting?

I never took any classes. My dad knew a person who had done faceting who mentored us a bit and we watched a number of YouTube videos from people who were well known in faceting. We bought a really old used Ultra Tec V2, which was built in the early 70s. I used the V2 for a couple of months to see if this was what a really wanted to do. So, I purchased a new Ultra Tec V5, which I was quite surprised how much that improved my cutting abilities.

Q: What is your favorite stone to cut?

I have only cut CZ and a small amount of synthetic ruby, so I don't have much to go by. The synthetic ruby that I got from Shelby's looks similar to Pigeon Blood created ruby. I have some ametrine that I am looking forward to cutting and some other quartz as well. I got some spinel that I am considering using for the US Faceting Guild's competition. I also have a few pieces of topaz and garnet, but I haven't gotten around to cutting them yet.

Q: What is your favorite pattern to facet thus far?

I really have wanted to go back and cut a couple more dozen Portuguese cuts. I have taken quite a fancy to that particular cut and have cut the Portuguese on maybe my 7th or 8th stone. I really love how intricate it is and how symmetrical it is at the same time. It took me 40ish hours to cut the first Portuguese to learn the cut and the second one I decreased it down to 15 to 20 hours.

Q: What recommendations would you make for young people to learn to facet?

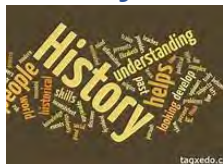
If you find someone nice enough as a mentor, that definitely would be helpful. There are a lot of resources on YouTube that you can use. There is no rush to learn the best ways to facet and not try to facet as quick as possible. My mentor and I have spent a lot of time video calling on Facebook Messenger where we would actually sit there and facet together and show each other what we were doing, and trouble shoot on the spot. When you find someone willing to do that, it is immensely helpful.

Everyone has their own style and there are some things I cannot do because of my cerebral palsy that makes some techniques not possible. I look forward to the time when the members of the Guild can get together and share approaches and learn from each other. It can be tricky to find out how you learn, but once you figure that out it gets a whole lot easier. I would at times cut a pavilion 6 or 7 times to see what I was doing wrong and learn how to fix it. I would learn how to adjust the speed or reverse the lap or move the stone over here or over there, to see how best to polish the stone. If I have time, I also would like to cut a stone for the US Faceters Guild 2021 competition to challenge myself.



Look what a year of faceting can do in faceting a beautiful stone. This is CZ that Shondy faceted, and it is 14 mm and is 23.62 carats. Congratulations Shondy in producing a truly striking gemstone!

A Bit of History



Virginia Steele is a life-time member of the Midwest Faceter's Guild. She was not a charter member of the Guild but joined in the early 80s. She is now 81 years old and serves on the Board of Directors as the Guild's Historian and current Vice President. She agreed to an interview to share her history with the Guild on April 6, 2021.

Virginia, tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in central Indiana in a small-town near Marion, Indiana and the town is mostly known for being the hometown of James Dean. He lived just down the road from my family. His grave is just down the row from my family in Park Cemetery. There have been other people; Jim Davidson who is the creator of the comic strip Garfield and Phil Jones that reported for CBS. Those are the three names on a sign at the edge of town; it is not a large town, a bedroom community for all the industries around there. As a kid I always liked rocks and would pick them up on a walk but did not know they could become pretty stones. I attended a small high school, and the graduating class was probably a bit over 60. There is a lot of basketball, and I was watching the playoffs, so it is somewhere in my blood stream. I have a small degree of mechanical ability since my father was a tool and die maker and my brother was an engineer, so it sort of runs in the family. After high school I went to Indiana University and graduated from there in 1961. I did a bit of graduate work at the University of Missouri and got married and had my first son. I had three other children. One lives with me, one lives in the D.C. area, another lives in Cambodia managing an orphanage/school owned by his wife in Japan. The youngest lives in the Indianapolis area. Even though they are far away, we had a Zoom call involving, Cambodia, Japan, and the United States and there was about 15 people, which would not have been physical possible before. After leaving California in 1969 four days after the Moon landing and with the four kids I worked as a librarian, but the school I had attended was not accredited, so that petered out and somehow, I ended up working with the physical and mental handicapped, which I did from the late 80s until just a little over a year ago, mostly in group homes.

How did you get involved in the Midwest Faceter's Guild?

When I first started in the Midwest Faceter's Guild I was still living in Mount Vernon down on the Ohio River, which made it very difficult to get to meetings, so I subscribed to the Newsletter, which published designs and articles. It was information I needed, and I was attracted to faceting even when I was in California but did not have room for all the equipment. There was no one in the Evansville Club that I belonged to for a long time to teach faceting. I tried on an old Sapphire machine with a gentleman that agreed to teach me, but he never showed up very often, so I started going up to the shows. I remember going up to Maumee, Ohio early on and my daughter was 16 and she wanted to drive the car. She wasn't a rockhound. It was not until I moved up to northern Indiana where I started to go to occasional MWFG Guild meetings, and they were usually in Michigan somewhere. So, I could spend 4 to 6 hours getting to a meeting. But I really latched on to seminars because that is what I needed. I still believe we need person-on-person seminars because I don't think you can do this well in videos because you cannot see and touch and mess around with a stone as you need to. I am hoping next year we can resume the in-person seminars, so we can have meetings, sit down, and talk with each other; the social aspect of the club is something we need to have. Being around other faceters is what I needed. I don't see how you can learn to facet over videos. I have heard people say that have watched YouTube videos, but I am too much a people person. I can do things like that now, but I don't think I would really like it.

I somehow happened on the MWFG at a faceting group that met in Crown Point. I have been to almost every seminar. They started out in Mount Clemens. Then they went to Hartland for a number of years. That building became electronically challenged and the group became too big. Then we moved to Mott Community College. We had a lot of classes, a lot of faceting, and a lot of attendance. In some of the earlier shows, we had multiple birthstone cases from members of the Guild that people could see. I hope we can get back to shows, but at least the seminars. The group is not big enough to put on shows like we use to, because they are an enormous operation. The attendance at the shows was not as good away from the Detroit area. I think of faceting as a hobby and not as a business. I just miss getting together with other faceters.

What attracts you to the seminars?

I like the way we have been doing them--having 7 or 8 people and an instructor over your shoulder to help you with faceting a stone. I just like in-person learning. We had catered dinners and had presentations, such as concave faceting or the guy that talked about faceting Moissanite. With the use of video conferencing, it has made it possible to do a presentation to the membership where we use to do it in-person. It is just getting use to that format.

I appreciate what the Guild has done in teaching faceting. We were here before the US Faceters Guild. The USFG does not get together for meetings, but there is an inclination for doing that in Tucson or Franklin.

What faceting machine do you use?

I still have the same Facetron since the beginning. I bought it in 1981 having seen it demonstrated in Washington by Betty Jarvi, wife of the owner of Jarvi Industries. I never updated it to the analog dial. The machine still has the needle, and it runs well. I learned how to take the needle apart to clean it and a little WD-40 goes a long way in fixing it! Jarvi seems to be having some issue with production. I do not know exactly what their problem is, but I am not going to worry about it at my age. I would recommend that machine to anybody. You can't get a Facette anymore anyway. You must get an Ultra Tec or a Facetron for the most part. Back when I got my Facetron they had all the index gears except for the 77-index. I had found a pattern that called for a 77-index and I met a guy that was in the Navy that tooled a 77-index gear for me. Later Jarvi produced the index gear out of the need of faceters.

Tell us about being the Historian for the Guild.

As the Historian I have collected the Newsletters and I maintain a paper backup. The previous historian had maintained the Newsletter, but when they passed away the family ditched all the paper copies. I had to rebuild it from scratch with what I had and getting copies from others. I am not going to let the paper backup files die. So, I refuse to give up the paper copy as a backup of the electronic version of the Newsletters. At one time I knew everyone that was on the master list of the membership whether I saw them at meetings or shows and now it is myself

and Everett Brake that are two of the oldest members. I regret that members did not see Dave Miller facet. He had a very special machine that he built himself with a tall mast. He probably taught Bill Horton and Dick Fairless how to facet. He had to be one of the originators of the Guild. It was sad that he was killed by a drunk driver. I am not mathematical, but his book on how he designed different cuts was in his small book and I have a copy of it. He had one that the table looked flat until he told you how to tilt it to see the different facets. I got to see some great faceters over the years that I have been in the Guild.

News from Another Guild



A Regional History of Gemstone Faceting - A Zoom Talk by Justin K. Prim from Bangkok

Reprinted by permission from The Columbia-Willamette Faceters Guild, November 2020 *Facets*

(Editor's note: I wrote notes while listening to this interesting program. The slides were so interesting, I have included several from Justin's talk. My intent is to give you a summary of his program, but you should try to watch it yourself if you can. Thank you Justin K Prim. ~~Terry Olson)

On the first Tuesday of October the members of the Guild who chose to join the Zoom platform meeting were able to hear a talk by Justin K. Prim, who said it was 9am the next morning in Bangkok, Thailand, where he lives and works.

Justin is a faceting instructor at the Institute of Gem Trading, Bangkok. He is also a gemcutter, travel adventurer, lapidary historian, and author. Justin has a YouTube channel, gives Zoom Webinars and is highly present on social media.

Justin's presentation was a regional history of gemstone faceting. His slide show included drawings of early faceting machines and gemstones, starting from 600ad. He said Venice and the Silk Road was an important place for learning about colored gemstones, especially carvings and cameos. Venice became known as a cultural hub for gems cut in the Old Roman method and for new things from Asia.

The 700's in Paris the word "lapidaire" came into use, meaning stone cutter, one skilled in working with precious stones.

In 1120, Theophilus, a German craftsman, used sandstone and water, and copper against emery to grind stones for jewelry. In the 1200's Doctrina Poliendi used a lead plate with spit for lubrication.

Part of the cutting evolution in the medieval period of 1300-1399, mostly cabochons were made. Evidence shows use of naturally faceted stones, like diamonds, in jewelry. This slide shows simple gems from 1400-1499, also medieval, some cabochons and some with large flat tables.

Idar-Oberstein, Germany, became a gemstone cutting hub at the end of the 1300's. The river running between the two cities was used to run the wheel to grind with sandstone. The cutter would lay on his stomach and push the stone against the wheel. Justin showed a drawing of a man cradled in a "stand" for his stomach while he used the grindstone.

In Italy, 1420, during the Renaissance, successful artists were sponsored. This enabled them to devote their lives to their personal development of skill and style. This is when geometrically shaped "reflecting" gemstones came into fashion.

In 1430 in Germany and Venice, three polishing discs were used; lead, tin, and copper. In 1439 In Dijon, France, can be found a drawing of a lapidary machine with a handpiece. Justin described it as the first flap lap with a dop stick.



In Nuremberg, Germany, in the mid-1500's, the lapidarists used a hand crank and jam peg system, creating the first machine that one person can run by himself.

In about 1550 the Jura Mountain area of France became a gem cutting center. The Jura Mountains are located near Geneva, on France's border with Switzerland. In a 100-year period in Geneva, the Calvinists rose up against the technology and the merchants, especially Catholic craftsmen, so many of these people fled to the Jura Mountains.

Justin described this area as a sleepy mountain range with farmers and craftsmen. The people mixed farming in the summer with gem cutting in the winter. Jura was a gem cutting center for 400 years.

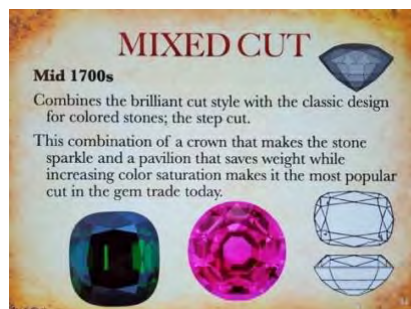
In Europe, for several hundred years, gems were cut with four sides and a table. In the 1500's, they started to develop a new style that eventually became the step cut. Justin points out that cutters are starting to become aware of optics, as related to gemstone performance.

Step over to Prague in the 1600's. Rudolf II, the Holy Roman Emperor, moved to Prague to escape the courtly life. He was into art and minerals, philosophy, alchemy, and magic. His Court was home to new ideas.

The mining and export of Bohemian garnets as an industry started in 1598. In 1609, Prague, we see the rose cut for garnets, step cuts in garnet and an 8-sided stone. Cutters were learning how to get angles and use an indexing system.



The 1650's show the first experiments in the brilliant cut in diamonds. The early brilliant cuts in colored gemstones began in the early 1700's, though it was not a widespread use until the 1800's.



The mixed cut became popular in the mid- 1700's. These combine the brilliant style with the classic design for colored stone—the step cut. This combo was more sparkly and more interesting. This is still the most popular cut in Europe.

Justin continued to show the history of gem cutting, including the development of better faceting techniques and machines. New designs became popular...the Old mine cut was developed in the 1750's. In the early to mid- 1800's, the emerald cut was developed and popularized.

In 1875, a Bohemian Garnet cutter named Gustav Postler, brought flat faceting machines and techniques to Idar-Oberstein and started a cutting school. In 1885 in Jura, France, an innovation on the machine design, the jam peg system, took them to the forefront of the industry. The jam peg system went around the world and is still used more than anything.



The Old European Cut, the prevailing style from 1890-1930's, included round stones with a small table, large culets and greater depth. Justin notes the understanding of crystallography and optics has now included the critical angle.

In 1892 the faceting technology that was brought to the US in 1870 is quickly innovated upon. Dr. B.O. Longyear is credited with having invented the first "mast-style" faceting machine.

A look at faceting machines used in the US shows that the mast style is the most common.

In 1919 the established angles for Round Brilliants, with pavilion angles of 41 degrees, crown angles of 34 degrees, and 58 facets became the standard.

Justin explained how the invention of the electric light played a role. With the new lighting available to people, there came a need to get the stones to look better under those lights.

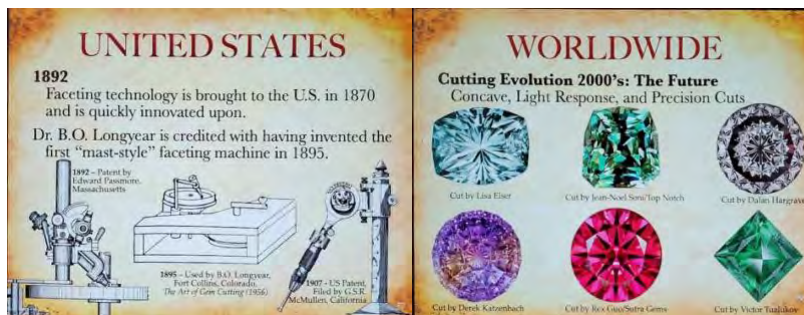
In the US in the 1930's, Justin notes the fetish of the brilliant cut was still lasting and was used by the amateur pioneer faceters and clubs. The brilliant cut "obsession" still doesn't exist in other parts of the world.

In the US in the 20th century, we find many innovators, new faceting machines, and new grit technology.

In 1969 in Idar-Oberstein, Bernd Munsteiner became famous for the birth of fantasy cutting. He is known as the "father of the fantasy cut." He wanted to take gemstone cutting back to a more artistic, ephemeral cut.

The fantasy cut made small waves in Europe, but in the 1980's in the US, it was a big deal. The US made a mark in the faceting history books with the development of concave and fantasy cutting machines.

As to the cutting evolution in the 2000's, on one path, stones are cut as fantasy, for precision, and to improve light response. Another path shows the reverence for the traditional style, which are the type that Europeans see as beautiful. Two paths mean more options and an audience for both.



The American story is that of people learning themselves, sharing knowledge, and being accessible to everyone. This is compared to a closed knowledge base in Europe.

Justin mentioned the Institute of Gem Trading in Bangkok, where he works as a lapidary instructor. He says that is a need for professional cutters who cut quickly, but precisely. www.igtthailand.com

A question from the audience was answered with the fact that Justin learned to cut in San Francisco, where he lived close to the lapidary club. He said he found a machine and started cutting. He moved to Thailand for gemology school and never came back! They teach eight students at a time on used machines intended for industrial use.

Now, during the time of COVID, the machines are put away. He started doing some online instruction and that seems to work. He mentioned that Thailand's borders are closed.

Justin hopes to be able to travel again. He wanted to tour the US, stopping at lapidary clubs, and talking to the "old-timers" about what they have learned, to continue to develop his history of gemstone faceting studies.

To learn more about Justin K. Prim and his faceting activities, just Google his name. Start with these:

<https://medium.com/@justinkprim> <https://medium.com/justin-k-prim/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgIE5EEeRBx9RBY6Dg_hZPQ
<https://www.instagram.com/justinkprim/?hl=en>

In summary, this was an excellent presentation and those who tuned in surely learned something that night. It was great to be able to have a speaker from the other side of the world talk to us on the Zoom platform. If you have a chance to look at some of his writing, please take a few minutes to do that. The Columbia-Willamette Faceters Guild thanks Justin for his time and knowledge.

A Little Corner of Our World



Since Guild members are spread across all corners of the State of Michigan and in other states as well, we have small groups gather to share their experiences in faceting. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has put a real damper on people being able to meet in person. Please let the Editor know if you have a group that meets, even using social media, to share in faceting. Hopefully those meetings will get back to normal after we get this pandemic behind us.

Gemmology Today



The following article is reprinted by permission from *Gemmology Today*, December 2020, World Gem Foundation.

The Spice of Life

Coloured Gemstones



LEONE LANGESLAG is the CEO of the Dutch Gem Academy and owner of Sole Leone. She received her European Gemmologist (E.G.) diploma from the Federation for European Education in Gemmology (FEEG) in 2006.



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



The 1st Issue of Gemmology Today featuring the Rosser-Reeves Star Ruby (Photo by Tino Hamid)

The wonderful 'a star of light' effect found in certain gemstones is called asterism, coming from the ancient Greek word meaning 'star'. This optical phenomenon is similar to chatoyancy and can only be seen when a stone is cut 'en cabochon', and is viewed under certain lighting conditions.

The usual rule of thumb with gemstones is, the less inclusions the better. But for asterism we need the needle-like inclusions and how they are positioned will have an effect on the overall value especially if they produce a sharp and well-defined star.

Characteristics

Most natural 'star' gemstones are translucent or opaque and typically display a weaker star in diffused light but when they are viewed under sunlight or a strong focused artificial light, their true nature will be revealed. They love the spotlight! As the light moves across the stone, the star will also move creating a truly remarkable effect.

Stones exhibiting asterism are typically cut with unfinished bases (bottoms). This is normal in 'star' gemstones because of their translucency or opaqueness. They are prized for their asterism, not their brilliance. Besides, unfinished bases add weight to the stone and this obviously adds value.

Geology

To fully explain asterism, we need to dive into geology and discuss 'Epigenetic' inclusions. During the geological process, certain high temperature homogeneous solid solutions can become unstable and separate (exsolve) into at least two divergent crystalline minerals upon cooling below the temperature of mutual solubility or stability of the solution. This is due to an expansion of the crystal lattice at high temperatures, which creates more defects, which are better equipped to absorb certain impurities. As the crystal cools, the lattice becomes more constricted forcing certain impurities to crystallize as tiny needles or particles. The beautiful thing is that these exsolved inclusions always form certain patterns, oriented in at least two different directions. They may actually differ from mineral to mineral even within the same host.

There are two ways 'Asterism' can be exhibited:

Diasterism - when light is directed through the back of the stone (transmitted light).

Epiasterism - when light is reflected from the stone.

Gemstones with Asterism

Star Ruby and Sapphire

The most well know gemstones that exhibit asterism are ruby and sapphire, which can show 6 or 12 rayed stars. In these two species of corundum, the rutile (titanium dioxide impurities) and hematite/ilmenite inclusions form along the basal plane in three directions, crossing at 60 and 120 degrees. These tiny fibres of rutile are also known as silk. In black star sapphire hematite needles formed parallel to the faces of the second order prism produce asterism.

Occasionally, a 12-rayed star can occur in Thai sapphires due to the presence of both rutile and hematite, the former parallel to the faces of the first-order hexagonal prism while the latter forms parallel faces of the second-order hexagonal prism.

For identification purposes, star rubies with exhibit 6-rayed stars, will give a reading on a refractometer (you will need to use the 'Distant' or 'Spot' method due to the cutting style), will fluoresce under UV light and display a bright blue appearance under a Hanneman ruby filter. The absorption spectrum of the ruby will show prominent lines at 694,693,476,465 and 468nm.

Natural star sapphires come in variety of hues (including black), tones and saturations. Generally speaking, the more blue the more valuable, however, the sharpest of the star also plays a very important factor.

Star Almandine Garnet

The star displayed by almandine garnet consists of 4 rays, however, the depth of colour can be more pronounced than in star ruby. Star almandine garnet will appear grayish under the Hanneman filter and due to the iron content, will exhibit a 'pick-up' response when using an N52 magnet. The spectroscope will also help to identify star almandine garnet with strong bands at 576, 517 and 505 and weaker lines at 617 and 462nm.

Star Diopside

Most gems are opaque and black in colour and can be identified by the very brilliant 4-rayed star. They consist of characteristic rod-like inclusions of magnetite, and will show a strong ferromagnetic response to a N52 magnet. The arms of the star will intersect at an angle of approximately 75 degrees.

Star Rose Quartz

Star rose quartz can be identified easily by its refractive index, even when obtained by the distant vision or spot method. If unset the star rose quartz will float in a solution of un-diluted diiodomethane. Dual stars can occur and are rare.

Star Moonstone

The combination of adularescence and asterism in a single stone is exceptionally rare. Star moonstone will exhibit a 4-rayed star with top quality stones exhibiting a 'three-dimensional colour', owing to the adularescence.

Famous 'Star' Stones

The 'Star of India' is one of the world's most famous blue star sapphires due to its enormous size, the intense blue



Stunning Multi-Star Quartz (Photo by Tino Hammid)

colour and of course the wonderful star, which is perfectly centred in the stone. The Star of India weighs 563 carats and is displayed in the Hall of Gems at the Americana Museum of Natural History in New York.

The 'Neelanjali Star Ruby' is believed to be the largest star gemstone in the world. It weighs 1370 carats and is famous for its unusual 12-point double star asterism. This star ruby is also listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. G. Vidyaraj of Bangalore, India privately owns it.

The 'Rosser Reeves Star Ruby' is named after its owner, Rosser Reeves, weighs 138 carats and comes from Sri Lanka. The translucency, centrally-aligned high quality star and the beautiful colour of the ruby makes this star gemstone one of the most luminous wonders of nature. The stone was donated to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington in 1965.

Synthetic Stars Stones

Lab-created stars are produced from high temperature melts such as the Verneuil and Czochralski methods. Linde, a division of Union Carbide in the United States in the late 1940's, first produced them. They are characterized by their perfect colour, stars that are so vivid and straight that they appear to be painted onto the stone, gas bubbles just under the surface of the stone, curved growth bands, their diamagnetism and perfectly flat bases.

Star rubies produced by Kyocera are characterized by their smoke-like bluish-white wispy streamers between the rays of the star and by spherical or distorted gas bubbles.

Due to the necessity of adding titanium dioxide to produce asterism, lab-created star sapphires are not found in yellow and green.

Surface Diffusion Treatment

It is possible to produce asterism through diffusion. This treated material has been available since the 1950's and is used on natural and synthetic corundum. Commercially, this treatment started in the 1970's and is still produced by different companies worldwide.

In synthetic ruby and sapphire, asterism is produced through a two-step process:

1. Growth of a non-asteriated crystal that contains distinct amounts of titanium in the corundum lattice.
2. Heat treatment of the homogeneous titanium-bearing sample to form needle-like precipitates of a titanium-bearing phase.

The formation of dual-colour double stars is related to needle-like inclusions or rutile precipitates in the most outer layers or the entire body of natural or synthetic stones. The reflection and scattering of the inclusions near the dome creates the white star and the reflection and scattering of the inclusions at or near the base produces the body-coloured second star.

Conclusion

The following general tips can be helpful in identifying the differences between natural and synthetic star stones:

The combination of a perfect star and saturated colour should make you suspicious. Typically these stones are lab-created.

Natural star stones will display some imperfections within the stone and the base (bottom) is normally lumpy and unpolished.

Most natural stones do not have a perfect star with the 'legs' differing in brightness, length, width and straightness.

In natural stones the star will follow the light. If the star stays stationary then the stone is synthetic. However, the star can also move in lab-created stones.

A microscopic examination is one of the best ways of determining whether you have a natural star gemstone or a lab-created stone since the presence of gas bubbles and colour banding are tell-tale signs of lab-created stones.

Mother Nature never ceases to amaze us especially in the world of gemstones. Imagine gemstones with 'stars'? Perhaps these 'stars' will even guide you into the fascinating world of gemmology!

Sources:

Handbook of Gemmology
GIA Gems and Gemmology Summer 2015, Fall 2017
Gemselect.com

Join Us?

Interested in establishing your own gem academy or offering our programs or courses through an existing school, college, university or gemmological organization?

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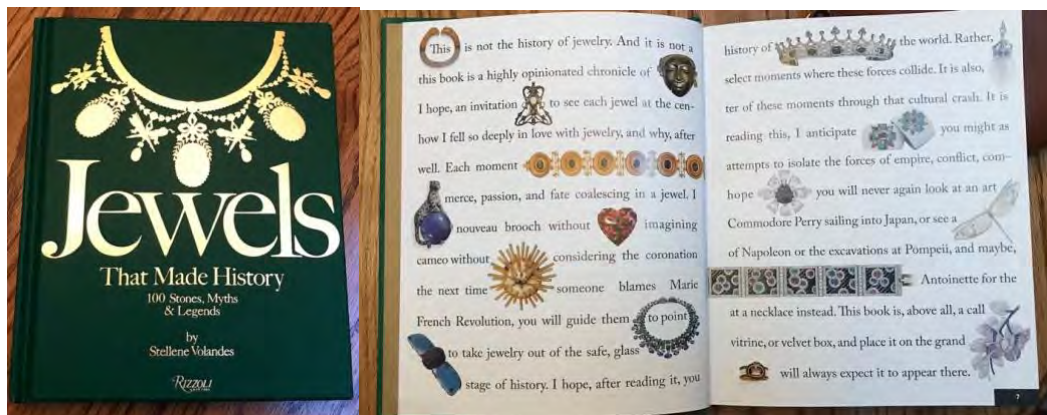
information@worldgemfoundation.com



Stoned Learning



Linda Cunningham is recommending this book for members who are addicted to history, gems, gem cutting, beautiful and interesting jewelry. It's a good book that you can open to any page and just start reading. I guess the things that appeal to me about the book is it's a good book to pick up at the end of the day and just flip through. Each page has beautiful photos of jewels and jewelry worn by influential people throughout history and events that shaped the world. An interesting fact included in it was a little history of Madeleine Albright's famous brooches. I didn't know she wore these as a statement of how things were. Butterflies and flowers sent the message that things were going well, and her famous crab pin said things were going more slowly than she'd like. Now that I think about it, this is probably just a pretty "jewelry trivia" book. It may not be for everyone, but I find it very relaxing and a great escape.



Heliodor as a Rare Gem

By Marie Bellard FGA

Did you know that the Heliodor/yellow beryl is very famous in high-end jewelry collections worldwide? It is a rare gem, especially in gem quality, and is therefore not usually found in traditional jewelry stores.

It was discovered in Namibia in 1910 in the same rocks (pegmatites) where aquamarines were found. Then, sometime later, it was found in Russia and in Ukraine. These gem specimens were large in dimension, up to 15 cm in length.

It is a natural mineral of the cyclosilicate family. It is a variety of beryl of yellow hue (produced by iron) with greenish or honey tones. Its chemical formula is: $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$. It has most of the characteristics of the beryl group: A high hardness of 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale, a hexagonal crystal structure, an imperfect cleavage and a conchoidal fracture.

It can have the same inclusions as the aquamarine. Not surprising, an aquamarine can become a heliodor with irradiation, and vice versa.

Yellow beryl is the light yellow to a light yellow-green variety of beryl. Heliodor is another closely related beryl, but its color is more pronounced, tending more toward gold, yellow-green, or green-yellow. The border between the two is up to the seller and varies from one country to another.

Heliodor is one of the most valued transparent golden gems in the jewelry world. It can be imitated by Citrine, Tourmaline, Topaz, or glass, among some other gems.



Yellow beryl of 3.47 ct - 10.26 x 10.63
x 6.79 mm

Ask the Expert

As an incentive, in the last issue, we called on new faceters to send in a question. Their names would be put into a drawing and they would win pieces of gem rough for the next gem they cut. When starting out people always need more rough gemstones!

Shondy Schondelmayer, a beginner faceter, submitted a question and was the winner of several pieces of gemstone rough. Congratulations Shondy!

Now to the next brave beginner faceter, please submit your question to the Editor. You too could be the winner of several pieces of gemstone rough!

A Joke for a Faceter



A certified master faceter, Pete, took great pride in his faceting skills. He had won numerous awards and all of his gemstones had perfect meet points and his polished stones would nearly blind you. His wife loved the gemstones he had faceted and placed in settings. One day Pete was sitting on the edge of the bed, watching his wife Martha, who was looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off, he was sure she would want a pendant for her birthday. So, he asked what she'd like to have for her birthday expecting to hear about the pendant. "I would like to be eight again" Martha replied, still looking in the mirror.

So, Pete decided to give her what she wanted. On the morning of her Birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Cheerios and then took her to Cider Point theme park. What a wonderful day! Pete put her on every ride in the park: The Blue Streak, Corkscrew, Gemini, Millennium Force, everything there was. Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a soda pop, and her favorite candy, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure!

Finally, they got home, and they collapsed into bed exhausted. Pete leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well Dear, what was it like being eight again?" Her eyes slowly opened, and her expression suddenly changed. "I meant my dress size, you idiot!!!!"

Let's Talk Photography



As mentioned in the last issue, the U.S. Faceters Guild offered a webinar on gem photography November 21, 2020. The presenters were Dan Lynch, Kell Hymer, and our own Roger Dery. Both Dan and Kell demonstrated their gem photos using Gem Zoom U 10X macro lens, which attaches to a cell phone. Roger uses a digital camera to take his gem pictures and showed his setup along with manual camera settings. If you do not have a digital camera with a macro lens, then your cellphone could be the trick with the right lens. The Gem Zoom U sells for \$89.99 to \$99.95 on Amazon.



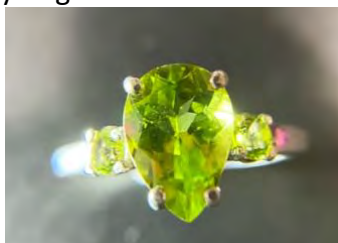
Doing a bit of research, the Editor found the Xenvo Pro Lens Kit rated better than the Gem Zoom U. It comes with two lenses; a TruView 0.45x wide angle lens, a 15X macro lens, and a GlowClip LED light. This kit takes stunning gem photographs and wide-angle shots with your cell phone and sells for \$44.99 new on Amazon. Checking EBay, the Editor found a used Xenvo Pro Lens Kit for \$20.00. If it was used, it was very little since it looked new and worked great. The website for Xenvo provides a tutorial for using the lens, so check it out at <https://www.xenvopro.com>



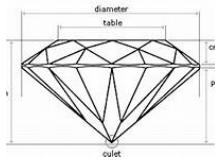
As you can see the lens clips securely over the camera lens on the cellphone. Here are a couple of pictures of the Lens Kit.



This is a quick photograph of a Peridot Sterling Silver ring with a 2.05 carat stone and two 0.15 carat accent Peridot stones using the Xenvo Pro 15X macro lens. A bit more time could have been taken to set up the shot, but you get the idea.



Faceting Diagrams



In the past, the *Midwest Faceter* included faceting diagrams. Rather than selecting diagrams that may or may not be appealing to the membership, you can select the faceting diagram of your choosing from two sites that have a multitude of designs. [A note to gem designers--If you use Gem Cut Studio or GemCad, create your own designs and would like to share with Guild members, just send a PDF of your design to the Editor and it can be featured in the next *Midwest Faceter*.] As a member, if you cut the design and you would like to send in a picture of your gem, look what we could start!

Facet Diagrams Website

www.facetdiagrams.org

The United States Faceters Guild Website

<https://usfacetersguild.org>

Kudos



Linda Cunningham nominated **Caroline Peterson** for the Atta-Girl award for serving as the proofreader for the *Midwest Faceter*. Caroline, you catch all the errors that go unseen by the Editor!



Dr. Reg nominated **Eric Peterson** for the Atta Boy award. Eric has been serving as a mentor to several members of the Guild and given the pandemic, has used technology to maintain that connection. He is using Facebook Messenger in his cellphone so that he can show the other person a particular procedure in real time, while the other person can share what he is doing on his end using his cellphone. Eric you are moving the level up to meet a mission of the Guild through education.

Marketplace Finds



Several dealers continue to provide lapidary supplies with a discount for MWFG members. They all are reputable companies. If you are in need of equipment or supplies, give them a try. In addition, if you have a company and you can provide a discount to Guild members, please contact the Editor.



Amaterra Gems: Our own Marie Bellard is offering a 15% discount to Guild members for beautifully cut gemstones on her website (www.amaterragems.com). If you find a gemstone you must have, just contact her by calling, e-mail, Facebook, or Instagram and she can apply the discount to your purchase. Goes without saying, but please support your Guild members.



Green Forest Lapidary: This company operates on eBay and has a 100% rating. The owner and his wife sell faceting laps. I have purchased several of his metal toppers (256, 500, and 800 grits); they are useful for preforming a stone or initial cutting. The laps are very reasonably priced, and hold up far better than a Crystalite lap, as an example. To find his listings, just search for “faceting laps” or search for Green Forest Lapidary. The owner is offering 25% off (unlimited) on the first order and 10% off every order following for Guild members. Shipping is free. To receive the discount, use the following code on checkout through eBay: <http://ebay.us/KcTPJP>

Buy, Sell, and Trade



This section of the *Midwest Faceter* is dedicated for members to list any items to buy, sell or trade. The section can serve as the Guild’s “Craigslist!” If you have something, do send an e-mail to the Editor and your item(s) can be listed in the next issue.

Ultra Tec Alert

Ultra Tec has announced that because of creeping inflation they are increasing their prices on faceting machines on **June 7**. The V5 Faceting Machine with Digital display was \$4950 and will

be increase to \$5290; a \$340 increase. The V5 Faceting Machine with Analog display was \$4490 will increase to \$4790; a \$300 increase. The Fantasy Machine was \$3980 will increase to \$4195; a \$125 increase. The increase will go into effect on June 7, so if you are thinking about an Ultra Tec you may want to consider it before the price increase. Contact Dr. Reg if you are considering the Ultra Tec.

Facet Shoppe Alert

John and Barb Franke from the Facet Shoppe and Gemcutter.com are hoping to spread the word that they are in the process of rebuilding a working website. It is a work in progress. The new address is: www.Facetshoppe2021.com

There are lots of natural and synthetic rough, faceting supplies, etc. We are trying to add to the site daily. Digging through old purchases that we will never get around to cutting, some mystery and sale parcels.

The new website should be in search engines now, but otherwise can be typed directly into browser. They take credit cards by phone and accept PayPal on the new website

John and Barb Franke

Bfranke@gemcutter.com

Jfranke@gemcutter.com

JJ& L Rock and Mineral Auction

After 45 years of being in the lapidary business and doing multiple show throughout the mid-west we are retiring. Please click on the following link to see the auction notice for details.

<https://www.fordford.net/index.php/features/item/855-jj-l-rock-mineral-auction-2-days-saturday-june-5th-sunday-june-6th-2021-330-locust-st-hickman-ne>

We have made many lifelong friends at the shows and will miss seeing them. Feel free to share with other rockhounds as there are many items for all. Classic materials abound along with some very dependable equipment will be offered. There will be more auctions after this two-day auction we are finding more and more that we had salted away. Hope to see you at this sale.

Thanks

James Marburger

Lee Harrison

Eric Harrison

Gifts from Our Friends



In the October 2020 Newsletter, a number of lapidary companies made donations to the MWFG. On the long list of agenda items for the Guild, the decision as to how best to share those donations with Guild members is pending. On behalf of the Guild, the Secretary, Linda Cunningham, wrote personal thank you letters to each of the donors. Here is an example of the letter that the Secretary sent and the response we got back in return:

Dear Mitchell Jewelry Studio,

I have been involved in the lapidary arts and faceting for several years and have an extensive library regarding all aspects of stone cutting and jewelry making. Your book *Faceting 1 Learn the Fine Art of Gem Faceting*, is in my library and I've found it extremely helpful.

On behalf of Midwest Faceter's Guild, I would like to thank you for the generous donation of your book: *Faceting 1 Learn the Fine Art of Gem Faceting*.

One lucky person will receive this and will be very happy. It wouldn't surprise me if you get more orders from members of our guild once they take a look at it.

Thanks again, Sincerely
Linda Cunningham - Secretary MWFG

From Judy Mitchell (Mitchell Jewelry Studio) to Linda Cunningham

Thank you, Linda, for your compliment and endorsement. Tom is working on his second faceting book, so this will certainly encourage him. Stay safe.
Judy Mitchell

Linda's comment:

One of my reasons for liking this response is that we have a relationship with the author now...writing his book...and our encouragement will help him along when he gets tired and wonders if it's all worth it. (I've been there myself at times, only on a smaller scale.) So, in the long run maybe MWFG had some influence on Book 2. :-) That's so good for our ego!

Find Us!

MidwestFaceters.org

Facebook.com/midwestfacetersguild

midwestfaceters@gmail.com



Midwest Faceter's Guild
The art of faceting

The Midwest Faceter's Guild was established in 1979 for the purpose of developing the art of faceting, to promote education and recreation through the exchange of information, to provide meetings for those with like interests and to encourage the achievements of individuals.

The Midwest Faceter's Guild is also a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies as well as the American Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.