

THE MIDWEST FACETER



Oval Tanzanite

3.42 ct from Tanzania by Roger Dery

The Official Newsletter of the Midwest Faceter's Guild

March 2024

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About the Guild

The Guild began in 1979. Its missions are to promote faceting education and recreation.

Developing the art of faceting is its most important responsibility. The Guild also creates an environment of shared information related to faceting via meetings for those of like interests and encourages the achievement of individuals.



President's Message

By Cristine Grimm

Dear friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and rested from the holidays! Although everything seems quiet, a lot is happening behind the scenes. Many clubs are setting dates for their annual shows. We keep a list of those shows and details on our website. It looks bare now, but soon the lists will fill with confirmed dates. If you know of something coming up, please forward the information. I'll make sure it gets to the website. If your club can supply a jpg image and basic info, we can also promote it through our Facebook page. We enjoy supporting other clubs and Guilds throughout the Midwest & beyond! It fits well with our mission. Send info via E-mail to midwestfaceters@gmail.com

The Education Committee continues its fantastic work creating an engaging and educational list of monthly events for all our members. Thanks to those who've participated! If you haven't tried it yet, please make time to join us. We're VERY fortunate to have the volunteers and connections to bring these seminars to you at no cost, and I can't stress enough how good they've been so far. The amount of information so freely shared is amazing, and I want those volunteering their time to know we appreciate their knowledge, experience, and insight. The best way to do this is to show up on the Zoom call, listen, and participate freely when appropriate. The schedule for the next 3 months was just announced. I hope to see you on the calls. There's always something to learn, and building community and connection is fun. If you haven't used Zoom and are nervous, don't hesitate to reach out to me, Dr. Reg (Newsletter Editor), or Chester Kiernicki (Membership Chair).

Finally, we're starting to receive requests for faceting demonstrations at rock & gem shows. If you're interested, please let us know. We also receive frequent inquiries for private lessons or faceting (their) gem rough. Inquiries come in from all over the country. If you offer these services in your area, please send in your preferred contact info and any information you'd like shared when asked.

Welcome to our many new members, and a warm thank-you to those who renewed again this year. We're off to a great start!

Warmly,

Cristine Grimm, President



Image created by Adobe Firefly

Editor's Gem

By Dr. Reg Williams

Much is transpiring in the Guild. We've hosted four workshops in 2024 with scheduled monthly workshops for the remaining year. Talk about the perks of your membership! If you haven't joined yet, I recommend attending the next session. A glance at our new members, originating from different states and countries, signifies the necessity to use Zoom for our sessions. Watch out for Chester, our Membership Chair, for upcoming in-person and Zoom workshops.

You may detect a fresh look to *The Midwest Faceter*, a credit to Michael Holmes, a new member and a professional graphic designer. As you will note as a new member, I learned that he did the graphic design for Justin Prim's book, *The Secret Teaching of Gemcutting*. He's already made a significant contribution to the Guild by designing a template for the Newsletter. He even proofread the Newsletter! One cannot ask for more. We'll know more about Michael in an upcoming interview.

"A Cut Above" showcases our Guild members' expertise. Feel free to share images of your latest gemstone cuts; we can't wait to see them!

I pick up clues of what people need for their hobby in faceting. So is the case of hearing a member talk about having trouble taking a picture of a gemstone that seemed to attract lint and dust like a magnet. With a bit of research, I've written an article on managing this problem. Hope it'll be useful.

In this issue, three Guild members have contributed articles - a delight indeed! Thanks to John Kleber for his piece and congratulations on receiving the Merle Reminikka Founder's Award. A shout-out also to Kreigh Tomaszewski for his wonderful article on the Grand Rapids Lyceum of Natural History and to Chester Kiernicki about

being Membership Chair and the Academy. With these members stepping forward I have a request to **Be An Author**. So, I implore all Guild members - please consider submitting an article, your input enriches our Guild. Reach out to me if you need article ideas.

I hope you'll enjoy our interview with Diana Carroll, the Columbia-Williamette Faceters' Guild's FACET Editor. We brainstormed ideas about our Guilds and discussed potential collaborative opportunities between our Guilds. Both of us approached our respective Boards and they have displayed great enthusiasm for the plan. So stay tuned to hear how this collaborative agreement may evolve. It has the potential to benefit both Guilds.

You may be interested to read my investigation on the psychological effects of gemstones, explaining our fascination for all that sparkles!

In this issue, we honor a touching tribute by Judy Budnik, wife of a dearly departed longtime Guild member. Our condolences go out to Judy and her family.

With a trip planned for part of March, it means an early send-off for this issue to the press. Enjoy!

May all your facets sparkle!



Image from Adobe AI Firefly

Membership Chair Connection

By Chester Kiernicki

It was a cold and stormy night... No Wait! That's a different story!

My name is Chester Kiernicki. I've been a member of the Midwest Faceter's Guild since 2017. Not a very active participant for most of those years but I got a lot out of being a member. Life sort of kept me from being involved more. That's probably a familiar story line for most of us.

A couple of years ago or so an appeal was made by the Midwest Faceter's Guild board members in an email that the Guild needed volunteers to take over and handle some of the Guild positions, one of which was the membership chair position. That same year I went through the Instructors Academy and at the MWFG Annual Faceting Seminar where I was one of the instructors, I was approached once again about taking on the Membership Chair position. After some thought, I decided to volunteer for that position. It turned into an interesting experience of making connections.

First, what are the Membership Chairperson's responsibilities? Well, at the basic level, it's processing the registration of people who join the Guild or renew their membership, entering their information into a spreadsheet, and reporting back to the Guild Board the information. Another connection is made. Keeping track of that information is fairly straightforward; producing the report is pretty easy.

Here's where it gets interesting to make another connection. Settling into taking care of the membership scrolls, and being a techie type, I offered to send out emails for the other committees. Why not? I had already set up distribution email lists for my use. So now a connection has been made with the Guild's Board and the Education Committee. An appeal to members to volunteer

for the Faceting Instructor Academy email was needed to support our Annual Faceting Seminar in August, no problem. MWFG Zoom Workshops announcements, give me the information and hold my dop. Sent.

I'm rambling a bit but here's the point I'm trying to make. What started out as a small act of volunteering has led to connections to all sorts of people in a hobby that I have enjoyed for 30 years. I have made new friends in the Guild that share a passion in making pretty rocks into prettier gems. Six degrees of separation starts with a connection to someone. Remember the old saying, "I know a guy, who knows a guy... etc." Well, I now know several people who know a guy who can help make a connection to some of the best known faceters in the gem world. Who knew a simple act of volunteering could lead to so many connections.

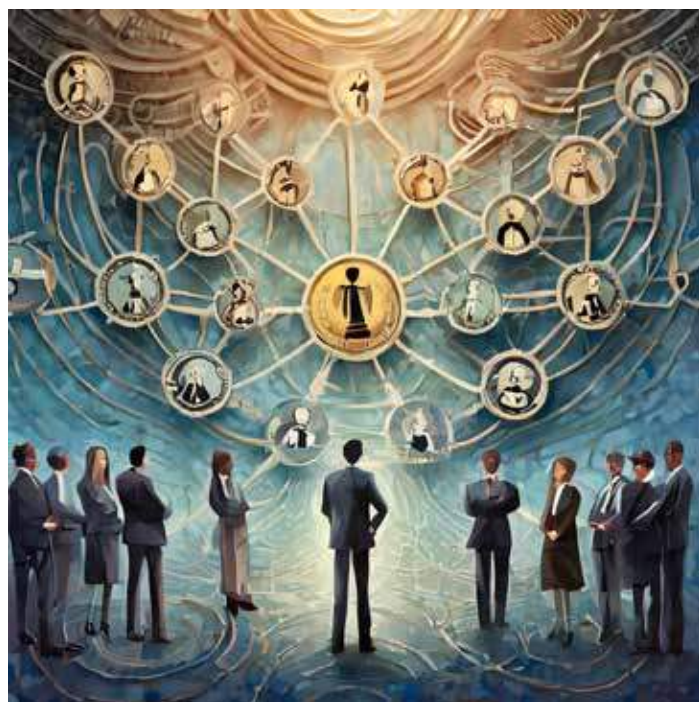


Image created by Adobe AI Firefly

Membership

Welcome to the following new members:

Michael Holmes

Michael is from Fleetwood, PA and he stated, “Thanks for reaching out. I’m really happy to be a new member of the Guild!

I’ve been cutting gems for about four years now, and I’m a graphic designer responsible for making Justin Prim’s book *The Secret Teachings of Gem Cutting*. I also run a Discord, which is an online community, for other gem cutters.

I’m really excited to be a part of the Guild and to learn from all the other members. Here’s a recent gem I cut, and I can also be found on Instagram with the handle ‘breakfacets.’”



Peter Ford

Peter is from Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has been faceting for 5 or more years and uses a Raytech Shaw.

Randell Reliford

Randell is from Perkin, IL and has more than 10 years of faceting experience. He uses a Raytech Shaw.

Grant Doohen

Grant is from Henderson, NV and considers himself as a beginner. He use an Ultra Tec V5.

Patsy Williamson

“I’m a retired science teacher and moved to the midwest from Santa Fe, New Mexico three years ago.

My introduction to rocks and minerals occurred about 40 years ago when my department chairman casually said, ‘By the way, you are teaching rock and minerals next quarter.’ I nearly fainted. That first year I stayed about a week ahead of my students, but I fell in love with the subject.

With what may be considered overconfidence, I bought a used faceting machine even though I did not facet and did not know anyone who did. I was determined to learn. At a gem and mineral show I met a club member who was demonstrating faceting and offered to teach me.

That cascaded into collecting minerals, many silversmithing classes and eventually training at Stewart’s International School for Jewelers. It has been about 20 years since I faceted my last stone, so I need to start as a neophyte. My new friend Amy Uphaus told me about the Guild and I am eager to start faceting. I look forward to meeting guild members in person.”

Julia DeLo

“I currently live in South Carolina. I went to school for mechanical engineering, and I am an engineer for my full time job, but in my free time I have spent many hours teaching myself how to facet using the internet. I have been faceting now for a little over two years and I cut on an Ultra Tec VL. Let me know if there’s anything else you’d like to know.

You asked for one stone, but I’ll let you pick. I don’t know the mm size off hand, but I have the

carat weight. I have also come to learn just how difficult it is to take pictures of gemstones and have spent a great deal of time teaching myself that as well.” Do note that Julia was featured in the *Ultra Tec Meeting the Needs for the Next Generation*, Rock & Gem Publication.



Carat weight: 0.87

Walter Green

“I’ve been interested in gems and faceting since I was a kid. Went into Materials Engineering for my day job. Currently I am a research engineer for Abrasive Technology, who own Crystalite. Bought my first machine in Spring of 2023 and have been learning all I can.”



Cubic Zirconia, 18mm, 43.15 ct.

Brett and Kris Leach

“First, we extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Reg for diligently pursuing Kris and me to submit this introductory piece. Without his gentle reminder, we might have let this linger indefinitely! It’s been quite some time since I’ve had to put pen to paper like this.

We are truly grateful for the opportunity to join your guild. Although our physical presence may not be in the Midwest (we currently reside in Victoria British Columbia), our hearts certainly have ties there. Kris hails from the Toledo area, while I originate from Winnipeg. It was in Detroit, however, where our paths crossed, leading to our marriage in Ann Arbor. During those days, I was working in the advertising industry in Detroit while Kris was finishing her Ph.D. at Michigan. I am still an avid Lions fan, we certainly miss Vernors, Skyline, Puczkis and Zingermans.

Our journey into the world of gem cutting and rough began during the tumultuous times of Covid. Kris had a keen interest in learning the craft, prompting her to seek lessons from Mark Oros of Hashnu Stones. Following her lessons, Mark approached us with an offer to take over his rough gem business, sensing a shift in his own priorities. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and personal matters, we seized the opportunity, and 16 months ago, Storied Gemstones came into existence.

At Storied Gemstones, we cater to both novice and seasoned cutters alike. For beginners, we offer two complimentary lesson plans downloadable from our website: Arya Akavan’s “Faceting 101” and the book “First 12 Stones” co-authored by Andrew Brown and Mark Oros. We take great pleasure in curating custom parcels tailored for individuals to match the 12 cuts and the desires of new faceters. We also carry a carefully selected assortment of rough for those next cuts, when faceters are ready to move into more gemmy

materials. For members of the guild, we are delighted to extend a special 10% discount in case our selection meets your fancy. Just reach out to us to start talking about a parcel and remind us of the discount!



We have selected the first stone Kris sold as our featured gemstone. Having learned from Hashnu, Kris is a big believer in the importance of motion to a stone, and the dance of light it creates. This blended ametrine is just shy of 14 cts (13.93) and is cut in a modified version of Voltolini's Nymphaea. I love how the flower designs play with windowing to bring the effect alive. I was intrigued by the idea of bees and flowers, hence the honeycomb pattern fused to Voltolini's original."

Lori Little

"I am a former superintendent's administrative assistant who worked for 34 years for our local school district before retiring and diving into my own silk floral business, AfterSchool Arrangements& Gifts. I craft custom floral arrangements, wreaths, trees and holiday decor, wedding florals, sew home made quilts and do special projects. I have many other hobbies and interests, including sewing and gardening and have a passion for learning and trying new things. I am also an avid rockhound, and living in a rural setting near the Lake Huron shoreline (Au Gres, MI) affords me the opportunity to walk the beach nearly every day, searching for Mother Nature's treasures! Many years ago, when

my children were young, I took them to North Carolina to mine rubies for the first time, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and recently was able to take my grandson and his girlfriend mining for the first time. They loved it and can't wait to go back! We found quite a few treasures, which led me to search for a resource where I could learn how to cut and polish my newfound gems. I was very happy to find the Midwest Faceter's Guild and am set to begin tutelage under Barb Yost in the coming week. I am so excited to begin! My husband purchased a new CabKing for me for Christmas, which I am learning how to use, and I hope to acquire a faceting machine in the near future. I am looking forward to attending some of the Guild's events this year and learning, learning, learning! Thank you for sharing your knowledge and allowing me to join!"

Tom Schulze

Tom is from Menominee Falls, WI and uses a Facetron. "I started faceting about 3 years ago. I am a person that picks up hobby after hobby. My wife calls it 'Your hubby is new hobbies.' Well, this one is sticking, and she especially likes this one since she gets fun new gems from time to time. I mainly facet synthetic rough. When I started, I found it difficult to find synthetic rough in small quantities, so I decided to look for resources from overseas. I found Nanosital and RG Crystals. When I started the order with them, my wife got a hold of the sample sheet. Needless to say, we ended up ordering way more than we could use. I thought that maybe since I was having such a hard time finding small quantities, maybe others were as well and we ended up starting an Etsy store to sell the extra. Selling on Etsy went well that we continue to do that today and it is a way for me to fund the hobby and keep me interested. It's been a fun journey so far and I can't wait to see what I learn and what skills I develop. It's a great community to be a part of and I will continue to facet for a long time."

A Cut Above

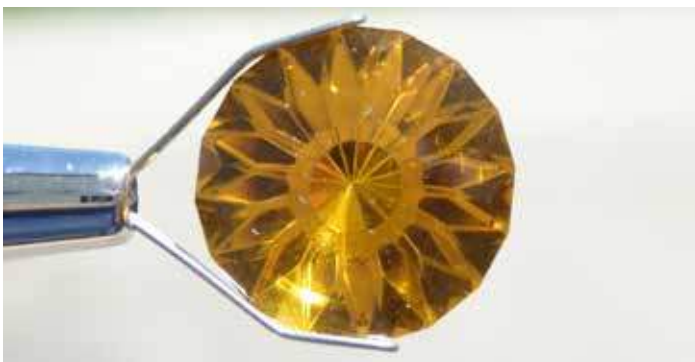
Glenn Wood

Glenn was introduced to the membership in the last issue but he sent some pictures of gemstones he has cut.

“I’m not great at taking photos of my gemstones, but here are a couple - my ‘Ukrainian Sunflower’ design, created to support my Ukrainian friends and my other design ‘Sacred Shite,’ yes that is what I called it, I cut it in 3 hours to completion, not knowing what it would look like. When I took it off the dop, I was so surprised I yelled out ‘holy #!%&,’ everyone at where I facet came running over to see the stone and liked it. It didn’t have a name and I couldn’t call it what I yelled out so I changed it to ‘Sacred Shite,’ figuring most people wouldn’t know what shite meant.

Both have been picked up by the Australian and the Columbia-Willamette guilds in their newsletters. If I remember right I think NE1 guild and USFG also published them.

The last 2 are just a couple others that I cut and did the frosting on the facet junctions



Roger Dery

Including the stone featured on The Midwest Faceter's front page, Roger sent several other pictures of stones he cut. The first is a Zircon, 3.61 ct from Cambodia and the second is a Spessartine Garnet, 2.03 ct from Nigeria.



Julia DeLo

In addition to the picture of the gemstone as a new members, here are several others that Julia has cut. The first is a created sapphire and the second stone is zircon. As mentioned she did not have the exact measurements. Nonetheless, they are beautiful stones showing her talent in faceting. Remember she is self-taught!



Eric Peterson

Eric sent in this stone, which is a Smokey Quartz, 11.58 mm, 5.97 ct with the design from Andrew Brown.



Tips & Tricks

Pesky Lint on a Gemstone

By Dr. Reg Williams

Here you are -- you cut this gorgeous gemstone and you want to take a picture to feature it in *The Midwest Faceter*. You get a great picture of the stone using your cellphone or camera and then you see a bunch of lint adhering to it. Your stone just seems like a magnet that attracts dust and lint. Oh, mercy!



Images created by Adobe AI Firefly

Here are some tips and tricks to have a very clean gemstone before you take the picture.

1. Wash the gemstone with warm water, dish soap such as Dawn, and use a soft brush. A clean used soft toothbrush works well. You can soak the gemstone in warm, soapy water for a few minutes and then brush. Rinse and dry with a lint free cloth. The cloth that comes with a new set of eyeglasses (lens cloth) works well, or you can use a microfiber cloth.

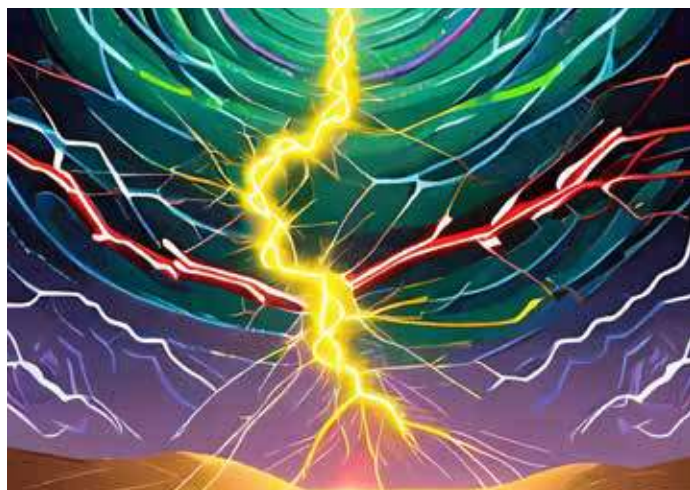


2. Do not touch the stone with your fingers since the oil on your skin will transfer to the stone.
3. If you need to position your gemstone for the picture, wear lint free white gloves (available on Amazon for \$6 to \$8).



Photographs by Dr. Reg

4. Keep your gemstone in a single small round plastic display case, so dust will not collect on the stone.
5. Static electricity is the buildup of an electric charge on the surface you have placed the gemstone or on your body. It serves as a magnet to attract lint, hair, or dust, which can contaminate the gemstone.



6. Touch a metal object that is connected to a ground, such as a water pipe, or a metal table leg. You will transfer any static charge from your body to the earth.
7. You can use a wrist strap or a wire to connect yourself to a metal object. You can purchase a wrist strap or make one by using a wire and an alligator clip.



8. You can purchase a grounding mat or an anti-static mat or make your own using a thin sheet of metal and a wire.
9. Dry air increases static electricity, so increase the humidity level in your environment.

10. Avoid wearing clothes or shoes that generate static electricity, such as wool, nylon, or rubber. Wear cotton or other natural fabrics that are less likely to produce static electricity.
11. If you still have specks of lint or dust on your gemstone after you have taken the picture, you can take the photograph into Adobe Photoshop and use the cloning tool to remove the specks.
12. Photoshop is a powerful tool but has a relatively steep learning curve. There are many YouTube videos how to use features of Photoshop. The other drawback is that Photoshop is not inexpensive to purchase the software. You can get a 7-day free trial and free download to give it a try at [Adobe.com](https://adobe.com).

There you have it to make your next pictures of your gemstones come out spectacular. The art of taking a professional looking image of your gemstone is a special topic for a MWFG Workshop. If you have mastered the skill of gemstone photograph, consider writing an article for the next issue of *The Midwest Faceter*!

May all your facets sparkle,

Dr. Reg



Image created by Adobe AIFirefly

Be an Author!

Having just read the article I authored on Tips & Tricks, I encourage you to consider submitting an article on a subject you are knowledgeable about. Sharing your tips and tricks with the membership not only contributes to the welfare of the Guild and shares something important to you, but also assists the Editor, who won't have to write all the articles. In essence, help your editor!

Submissions of varying lengths are welcome, ranging from a single paragraph to several pages. Consider the articles by the authors and members of the Guild, John Kleber, Kreigh Tomaszewski, and Chester Kiernicki, as examples, sharing their passions. You may have also found a technique that simplifies your faceting process, or learned something about faceting that you want to share with others. For instance, the above article on *PeskyLint on a Gemstone* was triggered by a member struggling with photographing his gemstones due to dust or lint attraction. It seemed useful to inform members on how to keep dust away.

If you're interested in contributing an article but unsure of a suitable topic, please feel free to contact the Editor at rawill@umich.edu to brainstorm ideas. Once a topic is settled upon, all you need to do is write. Rest assured, your article won't be vying for a Pulitzer Prize!

I frequently advised my students about publishing as follows:

1. When caring for your patients, your impact is limited to the few patients you treat.
2. When teaching, your influence encompasses the classroom.
3. With publishing, you touch hundreds, if not thousands, of lives.

Wondering what you'll gain by writing an article? I am pleased that you asked!

1. Pride in seeing your name in print.
2. Contributing to the Guild through knowledge sharing.
3. Assisting Guild members in their faceting journey by sharing tips or tricks.
4. Enhancing your knowledge base reaching out to more than just a handful of people with the knowledge you've acquired.

I thank you in advance for contemplating a contribution. Enjoy your journey as an author!



Be a bullish author!

Image created by Adobe AI Firefly

Faceting Award

By John Kleber

I am a member of the Midwest Faceter's Guild, and a member of the Columbia-Willamette Faceters' Guild (CWFG), and also the United States Faceters Guild, to broaden my learning of the world of faceting. Last year I learned of the CWFG's 2023 faceting contest, the annual Merle Reinikka Founder's Award. The design for 2023 was the Omni Diamond Checker Oval 133, by Robert W. Strickland. There was a requirement that the stone was to be cut in Topaz, in any color, with a width of 8 to 10mm.

I do not usually enter contests but I thought I would try this, so in April I did a trial cut in quartz and it turned out to be just short of the width requirement, although otherwise reasonably satisfactory. So, I decided to enter the contest.

Usually when cutting an oval, the design calls for choosing the length, not the width. However, our modern faceting CAD programs give us the ratio of a design's length to width. The L/W was 1.334 for this design, so the corresponding length could be calculated. Also, the title of the design mentions that the ratio of length to width is 1.33.

I chose a lump of clear river tumbled topaz, of unknown origin from my rough cache. The original stone weighed 37.1 ct. I could make out the cleavage plane so I knew where to grind a flat surface for a flat dop, attached using super glue. By the end of April, I had sized the stone and the pavilion was ready for prepolish.

Then I got distracted with many other things and faceting projects during the summer and fall, when suddenly I realized it was late October and the stone was due November 7th! I got busy finishing the pavilion. I transferred to a cone dop using 5-minute epoxy mixed with a dab of corn starch. After releasing the flat dop with Un-cure,

I got busy on the crown. The checkerboard crown was pesky and took a while.

I completed the stone November 1st. Acetone freed the stone from the cone dop. I was lucky that released quickly, but it was now almost to the cutoff date, a weekend, AND I was in Denver, not Portland, the home of the CWFG! I sent the stone in overnight mail to make the cutoff.

The laps used were 260, then 600 steel, then 1200 steel for the grind; 3000 steel for the final shaping [a pre-Prepolish]; prepolish with 8k diamond lightning lap (LL) topper; polish with 14k diamond LL topper. All lap used with water drip.

The final stone measured 4.40ct – 8.4% efficiency, and 9.21x12.47 mm. The stone scored 89 points when judged by an AFMS committee from the Faceters' Guild, which was enough to win the contest! I was awarded an unexpected, beautiful trophy!



Photographs by John Kleber

A Public Museum

By Holly Waldenmeyer, Sarah Humes, and **Kreigh Tomaszewski**

Editor's Note: Kreigh Tomaszewski is a member of the MWFG and is a volunteer Research Assistant/ Science Curator for the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club. The editor of his club's newsletter donated a specimen to the museum. He called Kreigh for an article disclosing the back story on how the museum acquires specimens because it was much more extensive than he understood. He agreed to co-author the article with other members of the club. He thought the exposure of the curation process would be of general interest to collectors. As the Editor of The Midwest Faceter I am delighted he submitted it to share with Guild members.

Founded in 1854 as the Grand Rapids Lyceum of Natural History, the Grand Rapids Public Museum has amassed a collection of over 250,000 artifacts and specimens over the past 167 years. The Museum collects objects to help preserve and tell the stories of our community, the places of West Michigan and the wider world around us. While the Museum started with just a few “cabinets of curiosities,” now 98% of the Collection has been donated by members of the community and folks like you.

The process for an object to become an artifact in the Museum Collection involves many steps and people but it starts with you!

Donations

The Museum's curators receive artifact donation offers from the general public, companies, and other institutions almost on a daily basis. The curator's job is to shape and define the Museum's Collection; they determine if the artifact has research value, fills in gaps within the Collection, helps further the mission of the Museum or helps tell the ongoing story of our community.

Temporary Deposit

If accepted by the curator, the artifacts are taken onsite as a temporary deposit, and inspected for unwanted hitchhikers - pests! Pests can include insects, rodents, birds and mold. Natural fibers are susceptible to pests such as webbing moths. Webbing moths and other pests can be very harmful to the Collection and precautions must be taken to preserve the integrity of the artifacts and specimens. The collections manager, who is responsible for the care and preservation of all the artifacts, puts appropriate artifacts into a freezer set to -30° for 2 weeks. This will kill any lingering pests!

Registering Artifacts

Next is the registrar! The registrar is responsible for tracking the artifacts throughout the acquisition process and creates records in the Museum's online Collections database (<https://www.grpmcollections.org/>) called Collective Access. Each artifact receives its own unique record in the database along with an assigned accession number. An accession number is a unique identifying number that helps the collections department track artifacts. Then, the artifact is then cataloged by a curator. The curator will include information about the object's history such as who made it and why it is significant.



Picture of a specimen showing accession number.

Organizing Artifacts into the Database

The Curator will also determine the tier designation for each of the artifacts. The tier system was created by the GRPM as a way to strike the balance between hands-on accessibility and long-term preservation. The Collection is divided into three designations: Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3.

- Tier 1 artifacts are considered restricted access and can only be handled by trained Museum staff wearing gloves. These artifacts are often the most significant, rare and/or fragile.
- Tier 2 is facilitated access which means Museum staff and authorized handlers wearing gloves can handle the artifacts. These artifacts are still significant but other examples also exist in the Collection.
- Tier 3 can be used in hand-ons activities, with or without gloves, are more common, and can be replaced. These artifacts are regularly used for primary-source learning programs, such as Discovery Kits, available for loan to school groups (<https://www.grpm.org/for-educators/>).

Artifacts are then photographed in great detail, including various angles, in a high resolution format. Having images in the database helps with identification, tracking different components, and monitoring the condition of the artifact. Detailed images in the database also allows for researchers from around the world to study the artifacts without having to step foot in the Museum.

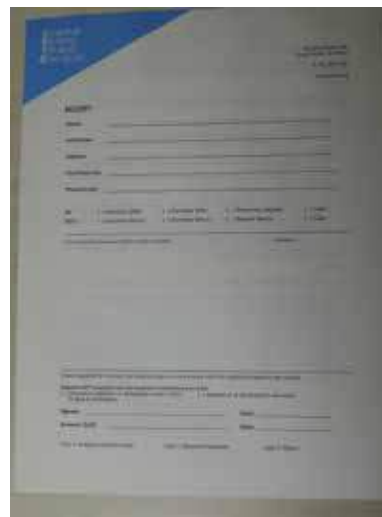


Photo of Museum's studio setup

Approval Process

All donations and purchases must now go through an approval process. Various times throughout the year, artifacts are presented to the Collections Committee first, and if approved, reviewed by the Board of Directors for final approval into the Collection. These committees are composed of individuals from the community to represent all facets of the community, allowing for a checks and balances system.

Once fully approved, the registrar creates a gift agreement that will be sent to the donor. A gift agreement is a legally binding agreement between the donor and the Museum that finalizes the transfer of ownership of the artifacts to the Museum.



Once the artifacts are approved for the Collection, it is now time for the collection tech to integrate the new acquisitions into the Collection!

The collection tech is responsible for preparing the artifacts for storage. Using gloves and proper artifact handling techniques, the collection tech will carefully measure each artifact and take detailed condition notes. The collection tech will physically apply the accession number onto the artifact for tracking purposes. How the accession number is applied to the artifact is determined on a case-by-case scenario based on what type of material the artifact is made from. For example,

clothing will have a label made of cotton twill tape with the accession number written on it with an archival pen. The twill tape will then be stitched carefully onto the textile. Plastic, metal and wood artifacts will have the accession number adhered to them with an acrylic resin and a paper label.



Storing Artifacts

Once the accession numbers have been applied, the artifacts are ready for storage at the Community Archives and Research Center (CARC). The CARC is a secure, climate-controlled building that houses artifacts when they are not on exhibit or being used for educational programs. Artifacts are stored in archival material such as acid-free boxes or folders. Other artifacts are stored on open shelves or hung on screens. The collection tech ensures that the artifacts are stable and safe from any potential harm such as light damage or water leaks.

Typically artifacts are stored with similar pieces from the Collection. Factors such as material, size, fragility and theme are also considered. Some are very straight forward such as a cotton dress being hung on a padded hanger with the other dresses in the clothing Collection. The location of the dress is recorded in the database for easy access. Since the location of artifacts are being tracked in the database, some objects that do not fit neatly

into a single collection, have more flexibility in where they can be stored as long as they can be safely retrieved.



There's never a dull moment while being a part of the Collections team at the GRPM. New artifacts and specimens are continually being donated to the Museum. This allows us to not only continue telling the stories of West Michigan and the world around us but helps to preserve them too. We've discovered that even simple objects can tell extraordinary stories. Please help us continue preserving history and instilling curiosity for generations to come by donating to the GRPM's Collection.

Donate Now + (<https://www.grpm.org/contactcollections/>)

Being a Faceting Instructor

By Chester Kiernicki

Last August 2023, I volunteered to work as an instructor at the MWFG Annual Faceting Seminar. Yes, I'm volunteering to do it again this August.

Someone, a friend, asked me why I volunteered to drive for 3 hours each way, for 3 days, and do what? AND I'm doing it again?

Here's some thoughts about this adventure. I enjoy the art and craft of cutting gemstones; that's pretty much a given. I received an email from Dr. Reg Williams the spring of 2022, with an intriguing call to action. Something to do with an Instructor Academy. Paraphrasing here, "We need members who would be interested in finding out if they could become an instructor to teach faceting for the August Faceting Seminar." Hmm, sounds interesting so far. I've been faceting for a long time. Did some one-on-one instruction with a couple of fellow Raytech Shaw machine owners a long time ago. What do I know about those weird mast type machines? Do I have what it takes?

What the heck, sign me up!

That accomplished step one, take the leap and Sign Up. What's the worst that can happen?

Signing up was easy. We are holding another Instructor Academy soon, try it, sign up.

Now what have I gotten myself into? Day of the Zoom workshop, listen to the information. So far so good. Being a platform machine guy, I knew I would fail on questions about mast machines. NOPE, passed with no problem. Platform, Mast machines, they all pretty much work the same way. In the space of a couple of hours, I discovered I knew a lot more than I thought. First challenge accomplished.

Unfortunately, the Seminar for 2022 had to be cancelled because of an abundance of caution for COVID, but alas, the 2023 Seminar was on. Second challenge, can I do the 2023 Annual Seminar? Thought about it for a bit, checked my schedule, I deserve a few days off. The weekend of the Annual Seminar, I thought it was all about me teaching. Not so much at all. I was learning stuff, actually learning a lot. Yes, I worked with several newbie faceters and helped them get started on their journey. That's the teaching part, easy so far.

Here is what I learned:

1. The same questions I asked when I started, they were asking.
2. I knew a lot more about faceting than just using a Raytech Shaw machine.
3. Talking someone through a technique required to facet a stone, which re-enforces that skill in me.
4. There is more than one way to polish a stone and there is no one perfect technique.
5. Mast machines are not all that different.
6. Wax was just another way of attaching a stone to a dop, so much for super glue superiority.
7. People learn in different ways, some like hands on, some "explain it to me," some "get out of my way," "let me do it," etc.

Yes, I did teach someone and yes, they walked out of the Seminar with a finished stone; a sparkly, shiny gemstone that they did all by themselves with a little coaching and help.

I walked out of the Seminar feeling like a 100-carat diamond. A feeling of satisfaction, a feeling of accomplishment, and feeling I made some new friends.

Take the Challenge! --- Sign Me Up!

Interview with Diana Carroll

Columbia-Willamette Faceters' Guild, FACETS Editor

Midwest Faceter's Guild (MWFG) Editor's Note: Diana Carroll is the Editor of FACETS, the Newsletter for the Columbia-Willamette Faceters' Guild (CWFG) in Oregon. She is in Hillsboro, about 16 miles outside of Portland, Oregon. I thought it would be interesting to the membership to get a bit of the unvarnished truths of our being editors of our respective Guilds' Newsletters. Through our discussion, we did some brainstorming that may be beneficial to both Guilds. This interview will take a different form from other interviews since it was a dialog between the two of us. I hope the membership enjoys reading about our discussion.

Dr. Reg: Tell us a bit about yourself and the type of work you do?

Diana: My day job is in computer security. I'm a product security expert for a semiconductor company in Oregon, which gets sometimes fondly referred to as the semiconductor forest or the "Silicon Forest," because we're sort of like Oregon's version of Silicon Valley. My career has sort of evolved over the years--I started off doing security testing and then moved into more defining security requirements and helping product teams figure out how to implement them. The long story short is that on weekends I need to unwind.

Dr. Reg: Have you worked remotely most of the time?

Diana: I love working remotely. It's the best thing ever, for me at least. I know not everybody loves it, but I'm in my Home Office as we speak. I have everything set up where I've got my dual monitors and my nice keyboard and my standing desk so I can be comfortable and productive. And the coffee is better. One of the things that really came as a surprise to me was when COVID came

they sent everybody home. I went from having a migraine a week in the office to going entire months without one. So, for me, there's been a big health and quality of life improvement, and they'll probably have to drive me back to the office kicking and screaming because I don't want to go.

I am married and we recently celebrated our 26-year anniversary. He's an anthropologist, we took very different career tracks. He does a lot of his anthropological work focused on those intersections of humans and the digital world. A couple years ago he was researching the hacktivism, which I call it, where hackers were attacking Russian infrastructure as a way to get their say, so to speak, on the Ukraine-Russia situation. And he also has done a lot of research into some of these goofy little conspiracy theories that hatch and grow online. And some of them have roots in history or the real world, and some of them don't. It's fascinating.

Dr. Reg: Tell us how you got into faceting.

Diana: It sort of felt like it was an inevitable next step from beadwork. I loved doing beadwork since I was a kid, gemstones, and sparkly things, I just love them all. Even today most of my jewelry is handmade. It has evolved over the years, bead work, pendants, and cabochons. When I found that the Guild offered faceting classes my husband said let's sign you up. I warned him, "I think if I go there, I'm not going to go back. I'm liable to get obsessed." Oh, he said, "well, let's do it anyway." So, we did it anyway, and I immediately got obsessed with faceting. Instantly, the minute I could facet, polish it, make it sparkle, that was it! I have a box full of beadwork that's been sitting abandoned for a while because I got so caught up with faceting. After we did the class, I fell in love

with it, then we needed a faceting machine. Poly-Metric Instruments is in Washington, they are not far north of us, and I can stop by there on the way when I visit my parents. So, we purchased a Poly-Metric faceting machine.



Picture from Poly-Metric website

A couple years ago I got a hold of an OMF machine that does the concave facets, and I've been experimenting and playing with that machine and having all kinds of fun. One of my friends in the Guild has the Ultra Tec Fantasy machine, and we were comparing them. It's fascinating because at the end of the day what they do is quite similar, but how they're put together and how they're constructed is dramatically different. I guess the Poly-Metric has a bit more of a learning curve, it's maybe not as easy to use but is also quite a bit cheaper. I don't own a gemstone mine, and I'm not cutting stones for profit. I'm perfectly okay with learning the ins and outs of a slightly temperamental machine.

Dr. Reg: I recall seeing in your Newsletter that you were an officer in CWFG. How did that evolve as you became the editor of your Newsletter?

Diana: I guess it sort of evolved organically. I joined the Guild back in 2017, as a member, for the first few years. One of the challenges that we do have with our Guild is that a lot of our members are getting "a little long in the tooth," as the saying goes. We have a lot of folks in their 70s and 80s

and we had some that were kind of needing to step down and didn't have the energy or the health to keep serving as board members. One of the things that we've been working on a lot is trying to get our newer and younger members more involved and getting them doing more things.

I initially was the Guild representative to the Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show. Several of the area clubs all combine their efforts and putting together an annual gem show. Initially I was our Guild's representative, but it turned out not to be a very good match because their meetings were on Monday nights and I'm usually working 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Mondays. I had a hard time making it there on time, and then I was just so exhausted, I was kind of a zombie, and it wasn't working.

Terry, who was the FACETS editor for the CWFG for years, she was having her own issues. Initially I was helping her out by writing a few articles. But then she had to have shoulder surgery, and typing became a challenge. Last year she hit the point where she said, "I need to hand this off. I can't do it; my shoulder is killing me." So, I took it on. She still has been helping me a lot, she does a round of proofreading for every newsletter and helps me with the formatting details, which I deeply appreciate. She catches lots of little things that I miss; all those little fiddly details that are easy to overlook, especially when you're new at it.



Cover page of CWFG Newsletter

Dr. Reg: I had communicated with Terry to ask permission to use an article from your Newsletter to put in our Newsletter with appropriate acknowledgment. I've used more than several articles from your Guild and some articles that you've written yourself that I have included in our Newsletter, which is really been a blessing and a type of camaraderie, between our Guilds. One thing I noticed is that both of us are stuck in the same place. Who writes the articles? It's us.

Do you have any magic words to how to increase other members to contribute to the Newsletter?

Diana: That's something I've been struggling with too, and I know Terry was struggling with it as well. I've been inspired by a guild in South Africa. They have members share photos of their favorite gems and kind of the path of the gem history, how they cut it, those type of things. I've been thinking about trying to maybe get people more involved by trying to create opportunities for more short form stuff. Writing a whole article might be kind of intimidating for some, but if it's just a paragraph and a photo, that might be a lower barrier to entry.

Dr. Reg: I've done that very thing you just described to get members to send me a picture of a gemstone they cut and give me the description. A lot of times it's very short, but at least it contributes, as a community, to the Newsletter. I found for a while that people submitted their gemstone without me having to ask. Now I'm having to send an e-mail to a few people that are doing frequent cutting and say, "Can you send me a picture?" They will do it when I ask. But I often must ask.



Oregon Sun Stone cut by Diana



Dichroic Glass X-Cube

Diana: Yeah, that's something I wish I had a good answer for, but it's something I'm struggling with too. I've been encouraging people, but at the end of the time it kind of starts to seem like I'm nagging them, which I don't want to do exactly.

Dr. Reg: Some time ago, I added a feature in our Newsletter as a way of introducing new members to the Guild. I send them a welcome to the Midwest Faceter's Guild and ask them to send me information about them, what kind of work they do, how long they have been faceting, what machine they use, and a picture of a gemstone they have cut, if they have one. In short, I ask them to include anything that they would like to share, which really has been a good way of introducing new members to the Guild membership.

However, in the last year or so, I have experienced more no responses to my welcoming e-mail. Do members understand that we are volunteer editors and receive no compensation for our efforts?

Are you experiencing a similar pattern?

Diana: We have this generational thing! We have some folks, where it's all e-mail. And then we have some, possibly the millennials, where it's all text messages. I sometimes feel like folks like me that are, I don't know, Gen-Xers, we're sort of in the middle. Sometimes I find myself

getting a text and then relaying it to somebody else via e-mail! The Guild has a Facebook page, but I never have been able to get on board the Facebook bandwagon. Younger members are all about Instagram. You can almost draw the lines by people's age to identify which toolset are they going to be inclined to use. But as a Guild we all need to function together. So, it's been an interesting challenge.

Dr. Reg: One thing that I know CWFG has, which we don't have in the MWFG, is a location where you keep your machines. I think it's in a basement of a museum, is that correct?

Diana: Yeah, the Rice Museum. We have this long-standing partnership with them. We keep our machines there; that's where we hold the faceting classes. One of our big goals for these next couple years is we're working with them to expand that partnership and have more seminars and events. It's kind of a mutually beneficial thing. It's activities that our members can enjoy and it's also for the Rice Museum. One of their challenges right now is they have a lot of kid friendly events, but they're struggling to get more adult friendly events in. And gemstone faceting, gemstones, and gemology is a more grown-up theme. Well, some teenagers get totally obsessed with it, but it's not for the five-year-olds. One of the things that we're working on to do is to expand that partnership and that would benefit both their folks and ours with more events and workshops. Especially for new members we have had a sudden influx, which has been exciting.



Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks & Minerals

We have kept the cost of the faceting classes low, very deliberately, we basically just cover the cost of materials. When somebody wants to buy a faceting machine there is sticker shock! You know they're not cheap. We've been looking at expanding into handpiece machines because they've got a lot lower cost; they could be a lower barrier to entry. Some of them are starting to come out to produce good results.

We've also been looking at having open lab time, especially in the summer when we don't have classes, where folks that have taken our previous faceting classes can come in and use the machines to practice cutting a gemstone. It is kind of outside the classroom environment, but with an experienced faceter there to help them, provide tips, and take them to intermediate steps in faceting. We've got a lot of plans around that and trying to find ways to make it more accessible and welcoming for new members.

Dr. Reg: As you know, in our Guild we must keep our machines in a trailer. When we have a seminar to teach faceting, we must take the trailer to that location, but unfortunately, it's only once a year. We did have our Annual Seminar in August 2023, and it went well. Because of COVID we were not able to have the Seminar for 3 consecutive years and we had a limited number of faceting instructors. Therefore, we developed the Midwest Faceter's Guild Faceting Instructor Academy. Its objective was to get people trained to be an instructor, providing them with the principles of teaching. People would say they were willing to instruct, but they didn't know how to teach faceting. The Academy was a three-hour session working well. We trained nine people to be instructors, whereas 6 of them were instructors for the Seminar. The others had conflicts for the dates. Nobody made statements to the students to turn them off. We're repeating the Academy in April or May. We are hoping to add a few more instructors so that we could have a 1:1 ratio of instructor to student. Which is what I hope will happen.

Dr. Reg: I think both of our Guilds have struggled to fill officer positions. Your thoughts?

Diana: People seem to assume that it's going to be difficult or it's going to be a huge demand on their time when it doesn't have to be. That's been one of the challenges and there was a time when we couldn't find a vice president, we were struggling to fill all the roles. Lately we've had a new influx of new members, mainly in the last two years, give, or take, that have been getting more active. That has been a huge relief. It's one of those things where people bounce around a little and then they find their niche.

We don't have a formal training program for faceting instructors; we have more tribal knowledge. We have a couple of folks that have been teaching these faceting classes for years and so the new instructors will work with them for a few classes and learn how they do it and that has worked well. Yet, I think it would be of value to have a more formal process of training faceting instructors.

Dr. Reg: Any parting perspective of being the editor for your Newsletter or words of wisdom?

Diana: I've two things come to mind. One big positive thing that came out of this whole not-positive COVID mess of the last three years is that we have gotten to where most of our meetings are on Zoom as well as in-person. I think that's been helpful because we have folks where the weather is bad, and they can't travel, or they are getting older or have family responsibilities, and it can be hard to get up and go somewhere at 7:00 at night. Having the Zoom meetings as an option where folks can "tune in," even if they're not physically going to the in-person event; I think it's been a big benefit.

We also have a new Webmaster now. One of the other things we're going to work on doing is revamping our website and making it so it's easier to find the design diagrams, which has grown

quite a lot over all those years of faceting with a couple of designs in each newsletter. Learning all the digital stuff a bit more is one of the big takeaways and things we're working on.

Dr. Reg: Our Guild had to come to grips with moving to Zoom meetings because our membership is spread all over the country and there is no one location that we could use that people would gather on a regular basis. The Education Committee for the Guild recently added some new members to the Committee, and we decided to offer a Zoom workshop once a month for our membership. We have planned an entire year of workshops. The numbers are starting to increase in people showing up for the Zoom meeting, which is most encouraging.

Dr. Reg: Any parting words?

Diana: *I think there might be some opportunities for collaboration between our two guilds especially as we are doing more and more things. We do have that pesky difference in time zones, but I think we would have members that would be interested in attending some of your workshops.*

Dr. Reg: *We do have the 3-hour difference since we are on EST and you are on PST. However, we have members in the Midwest (CST) and the West (MST), but we do have some members all over the country.*

That could happen between our two Guilds. Your thoughts about that?

Diana: *I need to talk with my Guild about it too, of course, but I think those workshops you talked about, potentially some of our Guild members might be really interested in attending those. We have some of our faceting Guild meetings on Zoom that start at 7:00 p.m. (PST) that usually go for 1 hour to 1 ½ hours, which might be late for members on EST. However, it might be a collaborative arrangement between our Guilds.*

Dr. Reg: Our workshops are for the MWFG members but we have talked about how we could open up opportunities for non-members to attend some workshops. We have recorded our workshops and are now putting the videos in the Member Only section of the MWFG website. Our annual dues are \$20 and \$30 for a family. I believe your annual dues are \$25 and \$35 for a family.

Diana: *Possibly, with the approval of both our Guilds, we could have some members from each Guild to join the other. I'm thinking out loud here with you on some sort of a joint Guild membership where they pay say \$40 and be members of both Guilds. We could figure it out. Hopefully before too long we'll have a searchable collection of faceting diagrams and the GemCAD files. We also do an annual beginner's faceting contest that people could submit a cut gemstone. (Editor's note: See the article from John Kleber's CWFG's faceting award).*

I'm always on the lookout for things to put in the newsletter, but writing is oftentimes how I think of through things and figure them out. When I have a new material, like right now, I'm working on an article on Iolite because it fascinates me. I started doing it and it has a whole bunch of history. It's one of things I love about gemstones, there is so much history behind them. Learn about and dig into and that's something I really enjoy doing. So, you know, sometimes it just sort of kind of happens organically. There are a lot of old classic faceting diagrams that were made for 64-index, but they just need to be modernized. I have been finding a lot of those and having fun updating them and modernizing them and cutting them for my own gemstones collection.



Spinel and concave-faceted synthetic corundum cut by Diana

Dr. Reg: *I think this frankly can open some dialogue between our two Guilds where we could think more about this as a way of benefiting both Guilds. As we wrap this up Diana, I think you and I have generated some interesting ideas that we can take to our respective Boards and see if there is interest to arrange a collaborative agreement between our Guilds. Nothing ventured, nothing gained! I so appreciate the opportunity to talk with you and I wish you continued success in your Newsletter, your Guild, and your skills in faceting.*

Here are several cutting diagrams that Diana has created. The first is Idolite and the second is citrine.



Of mice and men

Di - November 2023
This design isn't at all what I planned

Facet Data

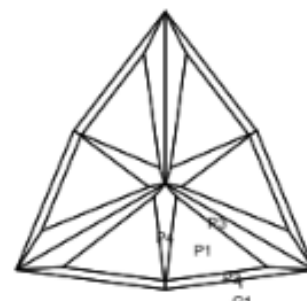
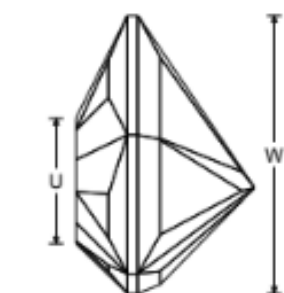
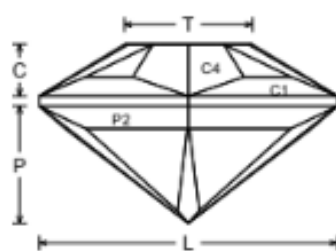
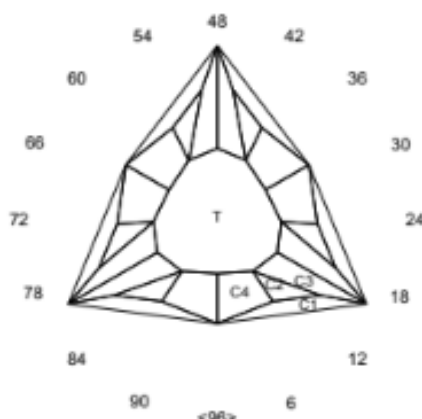
Pavilion facets	21	Pavilion tiers	4
Girdle facets	6	Girdle tiers	1
Crown facets	24+1	Crown tiers	4+1
Total facets	52	Total tiers	10

Size Data

L/W	1.073	P/W	0.421
T/W	0.461	C/W	0.186
U/W	0.450	H/W	0.644
V/W^3	0.195	P/C	2.268

Design Data

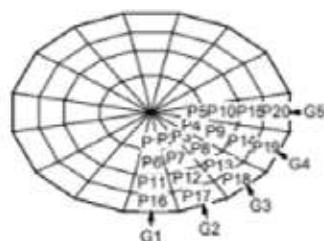
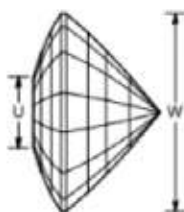
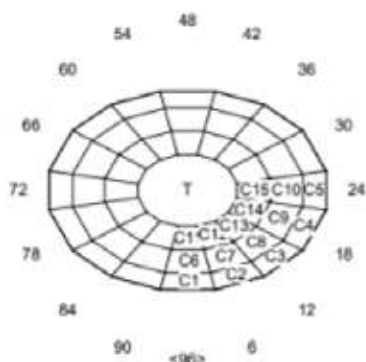
Angles for R.I.	1.54
Symmetry	3-fold, mirror
Index gear	96
Shape	Triangle



Pavilion

P1	45.00	02-30-34-62-66-94
P2	69.00	02-30-34-62-66-94
G1	90.00	02-30-34-62-66-94
P3	36.29	10-22-42-54-74-86
P4	44.30	96-32-64

Form temporary center point
Meet P1 and corners, height is faceters choice
Size stone, meet P2
Meet corners, form new center point
Meet center point ,meet P2



Spiderweb Oval

Happy Halloween

Angles for R.I. = 1.540

113 + 16 girdles = 129 facets

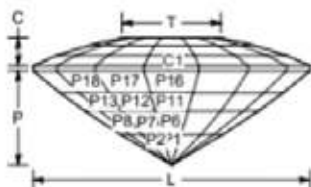
2-fold radial symmetry

96 index

L/W = 1.400 T/W = 0.500 U/W = 0.358

P/W = 0.477 C/W = 0.140

Vol./W³ = 0.313



Pavilion				Crown			
P1	39.97°	96-48	Form center point	C1	31.38°	96-48	Size & level girdle
P2	39.06°	04-44-52-92	Meet center point	C2	30.45°	04-44-52-92	"
P3	35.90°	09-39-57-87	Meet center point	C3	27.93°	09-39-57-87	"
P4	32.61°	16-32-64-80	Meet center point	C4	24.96°	16-32-64-80	"
P5	30.95°	24-72	Meet center point	C5	23.55°	24-72	"
P6	42.66°	96-48	meet P1	C6	23.61°	96-48	Meet C1
P7	41.60°	04-44-52-92	meet P2	C7	22.84°	04-44-52-92	Meet C2
P8	38.69°	09-39-57-87	meet P3	C8	20.80°	09-39-57-87	Meet C3
P9	35.11°	16-32-64-80	meet P4	C9	18.44°	16-32-64-80	Meet C4
P10	33.36°	24-72	meet P5	C10	17.34°	24-72	Meet C5
P11	45.70°	96-48	meet P6	C11	17.43°	96-48	Meet C6
P12	44.63°	04-44-52-92	meet P7	C12	16.83°	04-44-52-92	Meet C7
P13	41.77°	09-39-57-87	meet P8	C13	15.26°	09-39-57-87	Meet
P14	38.02°	16-32-64-80	meet P9	C14	13.47°	16-32-64-80	Meet
P15	36.20°	24-72	meet P10	C15	12.64°	24-72	Meet
P16	49.19°	96-48	meet P11	T	0.00°	Table	
P17	47.70°	04-44-52-92	meet P12				
P18	45.15°	09-39-57-87	meet P13				
P19	40.96°	16-32-64-80	meet P14				
P20	39.11°	24-72	meet P15				
G1	90.00°	96-48	meet P16				
G2	90.00°	04-44-52-92	meet P17				
G3	90.00°	09-39-57-87	meet P18				
G4	90.00°	16-32-64-80	meet P19				
G5	90.00°	24-72	meet P20				

Editor's note:

I created this design back at Halloween, and finally got around to cutting it. The photo to the right is a citrine faceted in this design.



A Joke For Faceters

A cranky old woman was caught stealing at a grocery store. From the moment she was caught, this grumpy old lady complained non-stop. In the courtroom, everyone held their breath, expecting some drama. The judge, trying to be calm, asked, "What did you steal?" With a defiant attitude, she said, "A stupid can of peaches." Keeping his cool, the judge asked, "Why did you steal them?" She shrugged, "I was hungry and had no money with me." The judge asked, "How many peaches were inside?" Angrily, she said, "Nine! Why does it matter?" The judge replied, "For every peach, you'll spend a day in jail. So, nine days for you." As the judge was about to finalize his decision, the old lady's quiet husband, who was in the back, raised his hand. He was the Vice President of his faceting guild. The judge, curious, asked, "What would you like to say?" With a small grin, the husband replied, "Your Honor, she also took a can of peas." (Adapted from JokesPedia).

A man went to his lawyer and told him, "My neighbor bought a faceting machine from me for \$500 but he won't pay up. What should I do?" The lawyer said, "Do you have any proof he owes you the money?" "Nope" replied the man. "OK, then write him a letter asking him for the \$1000 he owed you," said the lawyer. "But it's only \$500," replied the man. "Precisely, that's what he will reply and then you'll have your proof."

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!

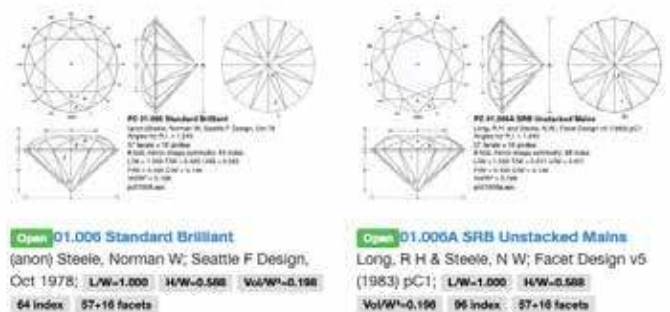
The United States Faceters Guild Website: <https://usfacetersguild.org>

The Faceting Diagram Website: <https://www.facetdiagrams.org>

Search Results

PC/Linux Controls: Ctrl+ to zoom in, Ctrl- to zoom out, Ctrl0 for 100%
Mac Controls: ⌘+ to zoom in, ⌘- to zoom out, ⌘0 for 100%

269 matches out of 5030 records. Showing record 1 to 20 of 269, 14 pages total.



A Bit of History

**From *The Midwest Faceter*, Volume 5,
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Success is not a matter of luck. It is mainly a matter of first, work; second, work; third, work with, of course, a plentiful mixture of brains, foresight and imagination. Remember, also, that genius is most times the fruit of hard work - well directed and long visioned.

B.C. Forbes

TID BIT #3 by W. J. Horton

This issue will deal with records as well as fun.

Have you ever cut a stone, liked the results, and lost your “guide?” Better yet, have you ever deviated from a “guide” and liked the results, and didn’t record the cut?

I would guess that quite a few designs originate from mistakes. Have you ever made a mis-index? Certainly anyone that has faceted has made a mis-index. If the mis-index was such that it could enhance the adjacent facets, lay in more of the same to keep the symmetry of the cut.

Attached is a sample that I use (Note: Unfortunately, his sample was not attached to the Newsletter). Maybe this will not be quite what you may like, but it will be a start. On the back of the card, record the date, and the hours worked, each time you work on the stone. This is part of the fun. When you give or sell a gemstone, give the card to the recipient. It’s almost like a birth certificate. It will enhance your relationship with the receiver.

This record will also be of value to you in future purchases of material. If you buy good material, this will be recorded. If the material wasn’t quite up to par, this will also be recorded.

If you ever need to “touch-up” a gem, it will be easier to have some reference to start with. Neat.

By numbering each gem that you cut, you will have a reference for the total number of stones cut.

By being honest with yourself, also record if the gem is a good cut or not. Naturally, we never cut any gem stone that is not good, but some designs are better than others. If the design and cut is a good one, pass it on to other cutters.

Use this card, or design a record of your very own. In any case, use some kind of record, to keep track of all of your efforts.

Have a good day. Cut a good gemstone.

History of W. J. Horton

Born 6-5-1930 Clare, Michigan. Graduated Davison High School; 4 year in the US Navy - Airborne/Helicopter. 1951-1955 (Korean); A/ NP School - ATA School - IC School; Instructor - Electronics ; ATA Instructor - Sonar/Airborne School - “Hard Knocks” and Wayne State University; 14 years GM Chevrolet. Presently, Emissions Development Engineer.

I started with Lapidary approximately twenty years ago. At first, just picking up pretty stones. After I had a garage full, I decided to find out what they were and what to do with them. I started through the adult education program in Flint. In truth, I’m still in Flint, in one phase or another.

I also belong to Livingston Gem and Mineral Society as well as the Flint Rock and. Gem Club. I have been blessed all my life, especially in grade school and lapidary with the absolute best instructors. I thank them all for that, as I’m still enjoying the arts of learning and lapidary.

Gone West

By Judy Budnik (Jim's wife)

Jim Budnik passed away on Oct 4, 2023. He was many things. We met at a club of singles adults that put on a beach party and horseback riding. It was love at first sight. We enjoyed many hobbies. We loved to camp, square dancing, collect minerals and fossils also making jewelry. We are Green Bay Packer backers (born in Wisconsin). We have two labs. On June 23, 2023, was our 50th wedding anniversary. He was a co-owner of Stoney Roads, a rock and minerals business with his wife Judy. Judy plans to keep the business going as a retirement job to keep her going. He was a very loving husband and would do anything to make life better.

At work at Circle K he would be like a father to the kids who came into the store. He would help anyone who need help, if he could.

He was a Master Gardener. He worked on keeping the parks in Cincinnati weed free until

Cincinnati Ohio stopped having volunteers. He did a spring garden show when Cincinnati had one in which he helps people with their garden problems. In the past he volunteered at the zoo and museum in Cincinnati.

As a member of the Cincinnati Mineral Society, he was the club liaison, award winner newsletter editor, membership chair, kid group chair and did field trips at times. He enjoyed doing library displays in Cincinnati Ohio in April to let people learn about minerals, fossils and lapidary art. We have done up to dozen libraries at one time. After doing the libraries came the Cincinnati Geofair. We would work with the Swappers at the show as well as help set up and take down the show.

At the time of his passing, he was a member of the Cincinnati Mineral Society, German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater Cincinnati, Dry Dredger, Wisconsin Geological Society, Cincinnati Lapidary Guild, Midwest Faceter's Guild, and Queen City Dog Training Club to name a few of the clubs he was in.

He enjoyed going to the Midwest Federation and for a few years was the Ohio State Director. The field trips were the best part of the show where we could see nature and study the earth sciences."

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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

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