



# THE TUSCARORA BULLETIN



Vol. 57, NO. 9

THE TUSCARORA BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is now mid September and the Fall class schedule at TLS has begun. The health and well-being of our members and students is of paramount importance to us. As a result, the focus has been on smaller class sizes complete with sign ins, health questions, temperature checks, social distancing, masks, hand sanitizers, and hand washing. We are focusing on our core disciplines and open sessions. We are closely following the COVID-19 statistics for the area and if conditions permit we will slowly expand our class offerings for the winter and spring terms. Unfortunately, it appears that this will be the new normal for some time to come. Over the summer, we have made improvements to the facility including better filters on our heating and air conditioning system, portable HEPA filters in the lapidary area and classroom, hand sanitizer, and paper towels throughout the Education Center, just to name a few items. We have also spaced out some equipment to better allow social distancing. We are requiring the use of masks for all classes except when actually using a torch. Please review the [TLS COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) on our web site before coming to the Education Center.

I am pleased to announce that we have received a Delco Strong 2 nonprofit grant of \$21,500 from the Federal CARES Act funds, administered by the Foundation for Delaware County. Many thanks are due to Frank Warner for his hard work and diligence in preparing the grant proposal. Check out his article on page 4 for more details. This grant will be very helpful in allowing us to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the face of decreased revenue. Plans are moving ahead for a television monitor and video camera in the jewelry room to facilitate viewing instructor demos.

The Board and Gemarama Committee have continued to meet via Zoom with great success. Other committees that need to conduct TLS business are encouraged to meet via Zoom. It's free for small groups with meetings less than one hour. This September we held our General Meeting via Zoom with 28 members and 3 guests attending. The meeting went quite well and we all enjoyed Stacey Segal's presentation about her trip to Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine. The General Meeting in October will also be held via Zoom with a program by John O'Hara on Chinese Snuff Bottles. Watch your email for the link to the meeting.

Plans are underway for a Virtual Gemarama in November. This will feature auctions on eBay, demos via Zoom, and other online activities. We are requesting donations for the auctions. We are hoping to have items created by our members to offer in the auctions. Check out the Gemarama article or contact Linda Lakitsky for more details.

Thanks to the hard work of Frank Warner, TLS now has a YouTube channel. The TLS home page contains a link to the YouTube channel. In particular please check out the video about the building of the Education Center.

The Board recently approved an amendment to the Operations Manual that nonmember enrollment priority only pertains to Beginner Cabbing. It will no longer pertain to Faceting. Hopefully this will allow more members to take Faceting classes. In addition, the Board unanimously approved that all current memberships be carried forward through 2021 and that payment of dues for continuing members in 2021 be voluntary and will be considered as a donation.

Stay safe and healthy.

Linda Green

TLS President



## NEWS AND NOTES

–Condolences to the friends and family of Lisa Laffend on the recent passing of her father.

–Wishes for a quick recovery to Bill Heher from Rare Earth Mining Co. after suffering a stroke.

–A HUGE thank you to Frank Warner for the effort in writing a grant for funds from the Federal CARES act. See page 4 for details.



Click [here](#) for updated TLS Ed Center COVID procedures.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sept. 23:** Gemarama Meeting; 7:30 p.m., by ZOOM.

**Oct. 7:** TLS Board Meeting; 7:30 p.m., by ZOOM.

**Oct. 14:** TLS General Meeting; 7:30 p.m., by ZOOM.

**60+ YEARS OF TEACHING . . . LEARNING . . . SHARING**  
**WE TEACH THE JOURNEY FROM ROCK TO GEM TO JEWELRY.**

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— From Janet Young, Recording Secretary

## BOARD AND GENERAL MEETING MINUTES/HIGHLIGHTS

The Board meeting was called to order on September 2, 2020 at 7:32 p.m. by Linda Green through ZOOM. The minutes of the August Board Meeting were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Frank Warner distributed the August financial data to all Board members. There were no questions. A new dues notice will be in the October Bulletin and also be sent by Mailchimp to all members this month. Dues will be voluntary for the year 2021. New membership cards from EFMLS are available. Contact Frank if a card is needed before January 2021, when they will be distributed to all members.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Stacey Segal reported no new membership applications were received.

**Programs:** Stacey Segal will present a program about her trip to the Middle East at the Zoom General Meeting on September 9. Frank Warner informed Springfield Township that we would not be meeting in their building this month. John Chickadel will try to make arrangements for the October meeting, which will be held by Zoom.

**Registrar:** Bill Frampton reported that most classes are full and the roster will be released by Friday. The Board unanimously approved Frank Warner’s proposal to amend the TLS Operations Manual to say that non-members have enrollment priority only in Beginning Cabochon class (no longer applies to Faceting class). More opportunities for enrollment in faceting classes are being sought.

**Education Center/Facilities & Equipment:** John Chickadel reported that he and Bill Frampton will replace all batteries in the smoke and heat detectors and thermostats and will make arrangements for a roof inspection later this month. Seven ceiling lights were replaced.

**Acquisitions:** Doug McNicol reported that Kathy Statton dropped off items for the Gemarama auction and he will pick up some other items on September 10.

**Equipment & Facilities:** Don and Ellen Schwarzkopf plan to be at the Ed Center on Sunday to work on the electrical conduit for the new jewelry room circuit. Once that is done Don will need to pull in wires to make the new panel live and install outlets for the new TV and camera. Tape will be placed over old outlets and small “in operation” signs will be placed on new outlets. Batteries for the emergency lights have been ordered.

**Library & eBay:** Stacey Segal reported that some books and wheels were sold on eBay. She has more items to list on eBay. There are no library updates.

**Gemarama:** Linda Lakitsky reported that at a recent Gemarama meeting attended by herself, Stacey Segal, Ellen Schwarzkopf, Linda Green and Barry Messino, the details of the auctions were discussed. A silent auction will begin on eBay on Friday, November 6 and end Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

The second phase will begin Saturday at 4:00 and end Monday. Twenty-five items will be needed for each day. A Mailchimp message will be sent to members to solicit donations for these events. The message will include times Linda will be at the Education Center to receive donations. Donation receipts and thank you letters will be available. Aprons, totes and other TLS logo items will be listed as “Buy it Now” on eBay. More expensive items will be auctioned Thursday through Sunday. At the end of September, vendors will be promoted through links to their websites. Sheryl Dahl needs volunteers to demo TLS educational offerings.

**Old Business:** Linda Green conveyed Lisa Laffend’s information that TLS can promote events through the DCAC website. This includes the new TLS YouTube channel. The August open sessions were conducted following all safety protocols and were reported as “successful” by those attending. Sheryl Dahl gave an update on the Education Center video equipment situation. The committee needs to do further work. Steve Hansen reported that the first fall Main Line School Night class is full. Three Zoom practice sessions were held in preparation for the September 9 General Meeting. Frank reported that videos regarding the TLS lapidary program and jewelry making program are being prepared to add to the four videos presently available on the TLS YouTube channel.

**New Business:** The September General Meeting will be held by Zoom. After Linda Green runs the business meeting, Stacey Segal will share her screen and all attendees will be able to view her presentation. Linda Green announced that there would be a field trip to Horizon Mineral, Lewes, DE on October 24. A discussion of EFMLS scholarship proposals was tabled until the next meeting.



The general meeting was held on Wednesday, September 9 by Zoom. There were 28 members and 3 guests in attendance. Committee reports and other items discussed at the board meeting were discussed.

Linda Green reported that Bill Heher of Rare Earth Mining Co. has had a stroke and is presently in a rehabilitation center. Lisa Laffend’s father passed away on September 3rd.

Frank Warner reported that at the end of February, TLS had approximately \$155,000 in the bank and at the end of August that balance was down \$24,000 to \$131,000 due to the return of class tuitions and Education Center expenses. On 9/8 Frank was notified that TLS has been approved to receive a Delco Strong 2 – non-profit grant of \$21,500 from the Federal CARES Act funds, administered by the Foundation for Delaware County. More information can be found on page 4.

John Chickadel reported that he has been making weekly “check” visits since the building was closed due to COVID-19. Recently, he and Bill Frampton replaced all batteries in the smoke and heat detectors and thermostats. Frank Warner and Don Schwarzkopf replaced seven ceiling lights. Don and Ellen Schwarzkopf finished work on the electrical conduit for the new jewelry room circuit. A camera mount was

installed by Frank Warner and plans are in place to install a monitor (or two) for the video system.

Stacey Segal reported no updates for the Library. Many items were sold on eBay this summer, including a faceting machine. Stacey is presently holding some items for Gemarama.

A bylaw waiver recommended by the Board and voted on by the membership waives the TLS President 2-year term in order to allow Linda Green to remain in that position for a 3rd year. All 28 members attending the General Meeting on September 9, 2020 by ZOOM approved the Board recommendations that the term limit for TLS presidents in the TLS Bylaws be waived for the election of officers for 2021.

Linda Lakitsky informed the members that due to COVID-19, Gemarama will be held virtually this year with the silent auction replaced by eBay auctions, plus demonstrations by ZOOM and other online activities. Donations are requested from members and volunteer help is greatly appreciated. Contact Linda if you would like a link to the next ZOOM Gemarama meeting.

Linda Green reported that Lisa Laffend attends the DCAC meetings and this year there will be a virtual "Delco Arts Week at Home" October 3 – 10. TLS will list the virtual Gemarama and YouTube channel in their calendar. Linda also reported on the summer open sessions held at the Education Center. Sheryl Dahl reported on videography equipment progress and the need for demos of TLS educational offerings. Steve Hansen provided a fall class update. Faceting and Opal Carving has begun this week. Kieu Pham Gray is scheduled to teach in January, but there will probably be an abbreviated schedule through the winter. The Board recently approved amendment of the Operation Manual to say that nonmembers have enrollment priority only in Beginning Cabochon class (no longer applies to Faceting class). TLS has a new YouTube channel which presently contains four videos. Frank Warner is preparing two more--on the lapidary program and the metals program. The TLS home page contains a link to the YouTube channel.

Linda Green reported that there will be a field trip to Horizon Mineral in Lewes, DE on October 24, rain date is the 25th. Linda has attended the EFMLS presidents' roundtable ZOOM meetings. Recently they talked about funding scholarships for lapidary programs at the Wildacres Retreat.

Following the business meeting, everyone enjoyed a presentation by Stacey Segal on her 15-day trip to Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine. She shared beautiful pictures and informative commentary. Members and guests were most appreciative of her efforts.

—Janet Young, Recording Secretary



**NOVEMBER BULLETIN DEADLINE  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23**

—From Frank Warner, Treasurer

**TLS DUES ARE VOLUNTARY FOR 2021**

Because of the lack of many normal TLS functions in 2020, and because of the financial difficulties many are facing due to the pandemic, all memberships in effect at the end of 2020 will be carried through 2021 without payment of additional dues. This includes regular members, junior members, auxiliary members, and newsletter-only members. A 2021 membership list and 2021 membership cards will be distributed in January.

Those who wish to pay 2021 dues voluntarily may do so using our online system or by sending a check to the Treasurer. Members who have email addresses in our system will receive an email notice containing a personal link that can be used to voluntarily pay dues and update membership data online.

Voluntary payments will be welcome since TLS does have ongoing expenses to cover, but please be assured that dues payments for 2021 are entirely voluntary. No record will be kept of 2021 dues payments. All such payments will be recorded in our financial system as donations.

If you have any updates to your address, phone number, or email address, please send those directly to Lisa Laffend at kokopelli915@yahoo.com, or 302-668-5072, before the end of December so they can be included in the 2021 membership list.

If you are not using our online system and wish to make a voluntary 2021 dues payment (\$40 for regular members, \$60 for a couple in which both spouses are full members, \$20 for an Auxiliary non-member spouse of a regular member, \$10 for a junior member, and \$15 for newsletter only members), please make out your check to TLS and send it to:

**Frank Warner, TLS Treasurer**  
535 Gradyville Road V196  
Newtown Square, PA 19073-2812



**OCTOBER PROGRAM**

The October 14 General Meeting program (to be held by ZOOM) will be a presentation by guest speaker John O'Hara on: Chinese Snuff Bottles - The Lapidary Method. Examples of many different snuff bottles will be shown. Their age, the materials from which they are made, and the techniques used in creating or repairing the snuff bottles will be described.



**DELCO ARTS WEEK @HOME**

The Delaware County Arts Consortium (DCAC) is hosting the second annual Delco Arts Week from October 3-10, 2020, sponsored by Visit Delco, PA and The Foundation for Delaware County. The calendar at [www.delcoarts.org](http://www.delcoarts.org) lists upcoming events with organizations in our area, including concerts, gallery exhibitions, studio tours, and more. Many of the events will be held virtually because of the ongoing pandemic, but there are still a few that will be held in person with limited audiences. Please check it out and support our local arts community!

– From Frank Warner, Treasurer

### GRANT

In May, the Delaware County Council authorized the use of Federal CARES Act funds in a program called Delco Strong to support small businesses that had suffered loss from business interruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic. In June, the Delaware County Council authorized a second round of the use of Federal CARES Act funds, this time to support both small businesses and nonprofit organizations. The program for nonprofits, called Delco Strong 2 – Nonprofit, was administered by the Foundation for Delaware County. The program was open to nonprofits with annual revenue less than \$9M with a maximum possible award of \$50,000. The maximum possible award for nonprofits with less than \$1M in annual revenue was \$25,000. We submitted a grant application in July.

The priorities for funding were:

- organizations with substantial economic loss as a result of the coronavirus pandemic
- organizations with substantial costs to comply with public health requirements as a result of the coronavirus pandemic
- organizations that are woman, veteran and/or minority-led, and organizations with boards that have 1/3-woman, veteran and/or minority-led membership

We qualified under all three of these funding priorities and received an award of \$21,500.



### \*\*NEW\*\*

### TLS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

As reported last month, TLS now has its own YouTube channel. The easiest access to our channel is by clicking the red YouTube logo in the “Follow us on Social Media” section at the bottom of our website home page lapidary.org. The channel now contains five videos. In addition to TLS Glass Program, Gemarama Exhibit Highlights, and Building the Tuscarora Lapidary Society Education Center mentioned last month, the channel now includes Making a Cabochon and TLS Lapidary Program. A video on the TLS Jewelry Program is in the works.

—From Jody Shaw, Bulletin Editor

### FUTURE TLS BULLETIN DEADLINES

ISSUE	DEADLINE
November	Friday, October 23
December	Friday, November 20
January 2021	Friday, December 18

### CALENDAR

**Caution: Many show dates are tentative at this time due to COVID-19 and some from this list may have been canceled.**

**September 26-27:** Central PA Rock/Min Club Show, Scottish Rite Aud, 2701 N Third St, Harrisburg, PA **Canceled**

**September 30-October 4:** NJ Mineral, Fossil, Gem and Jewelry Show, Edison, NJ

**October 10-11:** South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Temple, TX **Show canceled, meeting via Zoom.**

**October 16-18:** Combined AFMS & Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Knoxville, TN **Virtual Meeting**

**October 17 (Rain Date October 18):** South Jersey Jewelry, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Cherry Hill, NJ **Outdoors**

**October 17-18:** Bristol Gem/Min Club, Bristol Community Center, 240 Stafford Ave, Bristol, CT **Canceled**

**October 23-25:** Rescheduled Combined EFMLS & Catawba Valley Gem/Min Club, Hickory, NC

**November 7-8: The TLS’s 51st Annual Gemarama Gem, Jewelry, and Lapidary Show, ‘Pictures in Stone’ canceled BUT see page 5 for Virtual Gemarama information.**

### VISIT THE TLS EBAY SITE

Check out the TLS eBay site. As a fundraiser for TLS, a variety of items are sold on eBay. Auctions always start and end on Sundays and TLS members, family, and friends are encouraged to check out items and bid on them if they wish. To search for items for sale by TLS on eBay, simply:

- Go to [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com).
- At the top of the page, click the “Advanced” link (right next to the green “Search” button).
- Under “Find Items”, click on the “By Seller” link.
- In the “Enter Seller’s User ID” field, type in tuscarora\_lapidary (don’t forget the underscore) then click the “Search” button.

You’ll then see everything we have for sale and can place your bids accordingly.



### LAPIDARY LINKS

[Gemologyonline](#) is an interactive gemmological resource dedicated to a better understanding of the relationship between man and gemstones. The site explores not only the mineralogical aspects of gemstones, but also their lore and legend.

In looking around this site, an interesting fact became apparent. New Jersey and Pennsylvania do not have official state minerals, but sillimanite is the state mineral of Delaware. Explore this site to find out more fascinating facts!

## SILENT AUCTION & EBAY AUCTION

The Silent Auction has been a very special part of our Gemarama Show. Both our members and spectators love this auction.

We rely heavily on our members to make donations for this to be successful.

We've added a new feature to our auction, eBay! Anything we typically sell on eBay will be auctioned as well as any silent auction items that are expensive. So if you have something for eBay, those will be collected too.

So please get your items ready for our virtual auctions.

Since we aren't having our General Meetings to collect your items for the auctions, Linda Lakitsky, Show Chair, has scheduled various times for you to drop off your items at the Education Center in the Library.

Here are the dates and times:

Sept. 25th, Friday, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Sept. 30th, Wednesday evening, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Oct. 3rd, Saturday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Oct. 11, Sunday, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Oct. 16th, Friday from 10:00am – 12:00pm THIS IS THE LAST DATE FOR DROP OFF – Not accepting items after this due to creating the auctions ahead of time.

If you cannot get to the Education Center at one of these times, please contact me directly ([lkakitsky@comcast.net](mailto:lkakitsky@comcast.net), 610-742-3171) to arrange a pick-up or mutual meeting place for me to receive items you would like to donate to the auctions.

There is information that is needed for each item that is donated. Please provide as much of the following information as possible.

- Your name and contact information
- Item description (include name of material for cabbing or faceting rough)
- For faceting rough, list known flaws or veils, and whether or not man-made
- For cabbing rough, mention visible fractures or flaws, and if slabs have uneven thickness
- Identify items made by you or by known artists
- Size (length, width, height ( thickness for slabs))
- Weight (pounds & ounces for books, grams or carats for rough or specimens)
- Location where found if known (for minerals or lap idary rough)
- Title, author, year published, brief description of contents, and new/used for books
- Approximate value if known

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

–Linda Lakitsky, Show Chair,

–Barry Messino, Co-Show Chair

Next Gemarama Meetings:

Sept 23th 7:30pm

Oct 21st 7:30 pm

## VIRTUAL GEMARAMA SHOW

You can check out our newly created Virtual Gemarama Show website created by Mimi Favre. Mimi will be adding things all the time. This is where you will find everything that is going on with our show on November 7th and 8th.

- Silent Auction on eBay – less than \$50.00 items – start on November 6th
  - eBay Auction – more than \$50.00 items – start is November 6th
  - YouTube channel – Videos of various things that we do at Tuscarora.
  - Live Demos – Sheryl Dahl
  - Kieu Pham Grey Classes – held online – registration is available for those classes
  - Childrens Activities – Lisa Laffend
  - Dealer/Vendors
- Website: [Gemarama.org](http://Gemarama.org)  
Come check us out!!!!



—Frank Warner, Treasurer

## TUITION REFUNDS

Since positive tuition balances cannot be used in our online registration system, we no longer carry tuition credits from one term to the next. Positive tuition balances will generally be refunded soon after they are generated. I will try to clear all such balances before registration for a new term begins. Be sure to read carefully our REFUND POLICY that is posted both on our website and in the Bulletin when classes are published. Tuition credits are generated both from classes that are canceled, and from drop requests submitted to the Registrar in accordance with the Refund Policy.



## TLS CLASS/MEETING CANCELATION SYSTEM

If an evening meeting or class at the TLS Education Center or a General Meeting is canceled due to inclement weather, an appropriate message will be put on the Center's voicemail system by 4 p.m. that day. So, if you have concerns regarding any evening event, call the Center at 610-490-5252 after 4 p.m. and listen to the message. In addition, both day-time and evening instructors have the authority to cancel a class due to inclement weather at their discretion. Should this scenario occur, all affected students will be called by the respective instructor and, if possible, a message will be placed on the Center's voicemail system.

If a General Meeting is canceled or an emergency or other circumstance requiring special attention occurs, the TLS Phone Tree and email-alert system will be activated.

—From Frank Warner

#### TLS History Series #4

#### GEMARAMA – Part 4: Fashion Shows, Show Themes, and More

The first TLS Gem & Mineral Show was held in 1968 at the Springfield Municipal Building. The second (the first called GEMARAMA) was held in 1970 in the Agricultural Building of the Allentown Fairgrounds. Starting with the third show in 1972, the show was held annually in the Holiday Inn Convention Hall (tennis building) near the Granite Run Mall for seven years through 1978. The idea of having a fashion show or choosing a theme for Gemarama developed with the move of the show in 1979 to the Downingtown Inn Sports Palace.

With the availability of a convenient lecture hall in the Downingtown facility, we held our first “A Parade of Gems Fashion Show” for the 10th Gemarama, 1979. All jewelry in the show was hand constructed and modeled by TLS members. The show was a big success and was repeated for Gemarama 1980. For 1981, ‘Brazilian Stones’ was chosen as a theme and the show featured an exhibit of the Crown of Brazil as well as several cases of Brazilian minerals and gems supplied by TLS members. The 1982 Gemarama featured the fashion show “A Parade of Birthstones.” The fashion shows were continued through 1988.

Since 1989, a special show theme has been selected for each Gemarama. During the years 1989 - 1994, when we had access to a lecture hall during the show, a special lecture was devoted to the show theme. In the years since then, various member and club exhibit cases have been designed with the show theme in mind.

#### Fashion Show Topics and Gemarama Themes

##### Downingtown Inn Sports Palace

- 1979 Fashion Show: A Parade of Gems
- 1980 Fashion Show: A Parade of Gems
- 1981 Brazilian Stones (no fashion show)
- 1982 Fashion Show: A Parade of Birthstones

##### Armory in Northeast Philadelphia

- 1983 Fashion Show: Birthstones

##### Downingtown Inn Sports Palace

- 1984 Fashion Show: A Bouquet of Quartz

##### Gauntlett Center, Newtown Square

- 1985 Fashion Show: A Bouquet of Quartz
- 1986 Fashion Show: Gems from the Sea
- 1987 Fashion Show: Gems from the US
- 1988 Fashion Show: Quartz Gems
- 1989 Dinosaurs – special lecture by Dr. Peter Dodson
- 1990 Opals
- 1991 Turquoise
- 1992 Jade
- 1993 Agate
- 1994 Jasper

##### Penn State Delaware County

- 1995 Rainbow of Color
- 1996 The Brilliance of Quartz

- 1997 Pictures in Stone

#### The School at Church Farm, Exton

- 1998 Phenomenal Gems
- 1999 Gems Blue and Green and In-between
- 2000 Gems of the Millennium
- 2001 Kaleidoscope of Color
- 2002 The Wide World of Quartz
- 2003 Gems with Inclusions
- 2004 Copper in Disguise in Gemstones and Minerals
- 2005 Gems of the Silk Road
- 2006 The World of Opals
- 2007 Gemstones of the Western USA
- 2008 Gemstones of South America
- 2009 Gems of Myth, Legend, and Lore
- 2010 Gemstones of the Zodiac
- 2011 Out of Africa
- 2012 Patterns Galore
- 2013 Shades of Red
- 2014 Rhapsody in Blue

#### Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center

- 2015 Rocks in the USA
- 2016 Down Under
- 2017 Agates Everywhere
- 2018 Fossils and Friends
- 2019 All That Glitters
- 2020 (Show canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2021 Pictures in Stone

#### Other Features of Early Shows

##### Mini-mine

From the first show in 1972 at the Holiday Inn Convention Hall near the Granite Run Mall through the 1983 show at the Armory, we had mini-mine for kids – a large sandbox into which we placed several hundred pounds of sand and ‘salted’ it with small mineral crystals and other special treats. It was a great hit with the kids. It was less of a hit with members at the end of the show when we had to rebag and remove the sand and the large wooden sandbox!

##### Food Service

Starting with Gemarama 1972 at the Holiday Inn Convention Hall and continuing through Gemarama 1994 at the Gauntlett Community Center in Newtown Square, TLS members provided a food service during the show. It was enormously appreciated since it meant members, dealers and the public did not have to leave the show to get food. And it helped retain the public in the show for longer periods of time.

This required a huge effort on the part of many TLS members and was ably led by Chesna Coren. There was substantial planning, purchasing, and cooking done in advance of the show. And it required a large crew of members from the opening to the closing of the show to prepare and serve the food, manage the cash register, and keep the tables clean. That effort paid off since the food service was one of the largest contributors of net income for the show.

—Jody Shaw, Editor

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight is on John Chickadel, Education Center Director. John teaches all levels of cabochon cutting at the TLS and has taught cabbing privately, in his home studio, and has also taught workshops in viking weave and gemstone identification. Cabbing and gem identification are his favorite disciplines. He describes himself as creative, technical, and inquisitive.

John grew up in Wilmington, Delaware. His grandfather was a tailor and his mother was a very creative seamstress who made

Halloween costumes and helped with school art projects. His dad was very handy and John worked with him on many home improvement projects. His father also did stained glass as a hobby. John's post-high school education included an Associate Degree in Engineering Drafting and Design from Delaware Technical and Community College and a Bachelors Degree from the University of Delaware in Geology, with a minor in Cartography. Although now retired, his career was with Amtrak as an Engineering Project Manager.

John has had many hobbies and interests over the years. He has enjoyed surfing and sailing, as well as photography, traveling, billiards, home improvement projects, collecting transistor radios, and as an enthusiast/restorer of British cars. Rockhounding, silversmithing, and gemstone cutting are recent passions.

John has been married for 46 years and his wife and two daughters have been very supportive of his creative outlets and enjoy being the recipients of his creations. His wife calls him her "Renaissance Man". His French poodle Bleu is his little buddy, and he is good company when he is pursuing his pastimes.

John found the TLS while visiting the Delaware Gem and Mineral Show in 2008, and saw a TLS member, Joe Pizzirusso, demonstrating cabochon cutting and immediately became hooked. He was recently retired, and was looking for a hobby that was related to geology interests. He was drawn to cabbing because of the colors and patterns in the slabs. After a year of taking classes, he purchased a Genie for his home. His wife encouraged him to make jewelry, after he had cut and polished hundreds of cabochons. He began gluing on bails and then buying pendant mountings, but found that both limited his creativity. He took courses in metalsmithing at the Delaware Art Museum (DAM) with the following instructors: Maggi DeBaecke, Martha Roberts Shea, Caryn Hetherston, Kristin Landon, etc., who he describes as incredible metalsmiths and very inspirational. After dozens of these classes and open studio sessions, he found a new pastime to compliment his lapidary interests. Time passed, and he decided to try his hand at faceting. Under the tutelage of Gary Statton and Dave Groncki, he found a new and very challenging lapidary skill that is now one of his favorites.

John became a member of TLS in 2008, and has been an active member since. John has been known as teacher, board member, Single Stone Chair, Gemarama Dealer Chair, and is presently Education Center Director. He has received numerous single



stone certificates and a few Gemarama exhibit case ribbons. He has also received the Coren and Colio Awards presented by TLS. John has also been a member of Delaware By Hand since 2010. This organization is sponsored by the Biggs Museum of American Art, and promotes Delaware visual artists and craft artisans. He was the only lapidary providing gemstones out of 14 artists featured in Facère Jewelry Art Gallery's "Rock On" exhibit in Seattle, WA in July 2013. He has been awarded many trophies and plaques for the restoration of his 1965 British roadster.



John has enjoyed being able to travel to places related to his hobbies. He traveled from Seattle, WA to Bend, OR to rock hound the Madras area of central Oregon. He drove through the Cascades, basalt flows, scab lands, along the Columbia River, and across Oregon's High Desert. He visited the Richardson Ranch claims and dug up Friday thundereggs, then went to Glass Buttes to collect Mahogany and Gold Sheen Obsidian. The volcanic glass was so abundant all over the ground that he got a flat tire. While in Bend, he drove to the top of a 700' high volcanic Cinder Cone for an amazing panoramic view, visited the High Desert Museum, then dined outdoors with family overlooking the Deschutes River.

John has rock hounded and/or fossil collected in the states of Maine, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Oregon and Washington, with a copy of "Roadside Geology" in hand and an extensive internet research plan. He has also collected specimens in a quarry while visiting Devon, England. Two memorable museums he visited outside the US were the Geological Museum in London (home to the British Geological Survey) and the Musée de Minéralogie in Paris, housing the fourth largest mineral collection in the world.

Finding specimens has been a thrill for John. During halftime of his nephews' soccer game, he and his daughter walked along the White Clay Creek next to the soccer field and while exploring the gravel beds, found a Pre-Columbian projectile point. It was an amazing thrill for him to hold an artifact that had not been held by another human for hundreds of years. While visiting Deming, NM with a friend, he met and received permission from Robert Paul Colburn (The Geode Kid) to dig on his Baker Ranch thunderegg claim. He found a melon sized geode filled with stalactites and stalagmites of quartz crystals. He cut and polished each half and gave one half to his friend.

John is an International Gem Society member and enjoys their website, [www.gem-society.org](http://www.gem-society.org). Favorite Facebook groups include Lapidary, Rockhound Connection, Cabs and Slabs, Artisan Jewelry of Cabs and Slabs, and Precision Cut Gemstones. He also highly recommends a visit to both the Tucson and Denver Gem and Mineral Shows if given the opportunity.



Asked if he sells his work, John explained that as a member of DAM and one who utilizes the Museum's metalsmithing studio, he has made many friends and contacts with jewelry designers who purchase his stones. He also has regular customers who stop by his studio to buy stones and commission him to cut their material and make jewelry for them.

The Tuscarora Lapidary Society (TLS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and a Pennsylvania Purely Public Charity organized to encourage and teach the science and art of lapidary (the cutting and polishing of stones) as well as the arts and sciences associated with lapidary interests. This mission is accomplished through general meetings, an annual show, educational courses and workshops, and free displays and presentations; all open to members of the general public. TLS meets the second Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 p.m. in the Springfield Township Municipal Building, 50 Powell Road, Springfield, PA 19064; the June meeting is a dinner held at a local restaurant. Visitors are always welcome; anyone interested in joining the society may talk to any officer about the dues and membership requirements.

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AND AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES (AFMS).

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FUNNY QUOTES

- 1. People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day. -A.A. Milne
2. Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt. -Abraham Lincoln
3. If you want your children to listen, try talking softly to someone else. -Ann Landers
4. My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I'm right. -Ashleigh Brilliant
5. Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. -Bernard Baruch
6. The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us. -Bill Watterson
7. Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes. After that, who cares? He's a mile away and you've got his shoes. -Billy Connolly
8. A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it. -Bob Hope
9. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public. -Bryan White
10. As a child, my family's menu consisted of two choices: take it or leave it. -Buddy Hackett