



THE TUSCARORA BULLETIN



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THE TUSCARORA BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2024

Why Do We Love Rocks?

What is in a rock that draws us to and so intrigues the senses and the soul? Is it the color, the sparkle, the intricate intertwined patterns, the shape, uniqueness, or the intriguing suspense of what may lay hidden inside? There are rocks everywhere we stand and look around yet we yearn for specific ones to be part of our life. For example, I always pick up rocks when I hike, wade in streams, walk along a rugged shoreline, or go to rock shows. You would think that having a small collection of rocks would satisfy my satisfaction, but no, my collection is forever expanding. By now, I assume you know the feeling and can empathize with me because you, too, share this passion.

So, to justify this malady, many of us turn to the lapidary arts to refine the beauty of our collection to continue being with our rocks. This also allows us to share our finds to support our hobby and introduce others to the beauty of stones and the allure of this wonderful pastime. So, for Valentine's Day, why not share the joy of giving a "rock" to a friend, a loved one, or a child? Depending on your recipient, it can be a piece of rough, a faceted gemstone, a shiny cabochon, or fabricated silver or glass, all of which had their beginnings in rock, and watch the magic unfold when they see and hold your gift.

Our Winter session of classes is off to a strong start. Our short one-day class sessions by our guest instructors, Sulie Girardi, a metal clay artist from Austria, and Storm Rise, a gemstone carver from Australia, were welcomed with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately, one class by Storm Rise had to be canceled due to snow. Also, our many other faceting, silver, and cabochon classes are full or near capacity. Kudos to Steve Hansen, our Class Manager for arranging this fantastic array of classes and our many TLS instructors for sharing their knowledge through these classes.

For our January Program, through the efforts of Kathy Lopez and Tina Brunner, we had a captivating presentation followed by a question/answer session on "Opal Digging in Australia" with Scott Sucher. For our February Program, we look forward to hosting an in-person presentation by Justin Prim titled "How the Other Side Cuts," which contrasts mast machine faceting, which we teach at TLS, with hand piece machines widely used in other parts of the world. This presentation will be at the Springfield Township Building and via Zoom starting at 7:30 PM.

Since we still have to deal with the uncertainties of winter

**March Bulletin Deadline
Friday, February 23**

weather, a class may be canceled at the mutual recommendation of both me and the instructor. As such, your instructor will contact you by phone or email before the start of class.

In conclusion, let's make February a time when we pass the gift of wonder and the beauty of the Lapidary Arts forward to old friends, new aspiring members, and acquaintances!

—Ingrid Ratsep, TLS President



News and Notes

-Welcome to the new members approved this month: John Hughes and Caridan Bradley. We look forward to getting to know you!

-Sincere thanks to our two outgoing board members, Doug McNicol and Anthony Lombardo, for all the hard work these last two years.

-A huge thank you to Eileen Magee for 5 dedicated years as Corresponding Secretary. A job well done!



Dates to Remember . . .

February 7: TLS Board Meeting, by ZOOM, 7:30 p.m.

February 14: TLS General Meeting; Justin Prim will talk about different faceting methods; Springfield Township Building and Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

March 20: Gemarama Meeting, by ZOOM, 7:30 p.m.



—From Janice Lawson, Recording Secretary

Board Meeting

Minutes/Highlights

The January 3 Board Meeting by Zoom was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Ingrid Ratsep. The minutes of the December Board meeting were approved as distributed.

Announcements: Thanks were expressed to the outgoing officers and directors: Eileen Magee, Doug McNicol and Anthony Lombardo for their dedication and service in their previous roles on the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Dahl reported a positive cash inflow and outflow for the month of December.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Doug McNicol reported that two individuals have met the requirements for membership. A motion was made to approve John Hughes and Caridan Bradley for full membership. Both were approved.

Community Programs/DCAC: While the search is on for a new chair, Linda Green will remain in her roles. She announced

65+ YEARS OF TEACHING . . . LEARNING . . . SHARING

WE TEACH THE JOURNEY FROM ROCK TO GEM TO JEWELRY.

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that she attended today’s DCAC meeting by ZOOM which was devoted to discussion of the Delco Gives program, which will be May 8 and 9, 2024. This is a fundraiser for non-profits hosted by The Foundation for Delaware County. Linda gave participation details and the sign up is on the Delco.org website. Linda also shared that participating is a great way to raise money and spread the word about TLS and Gemarama. Most members of DCAC are planning to participate. Ingrid Ratsep made a motion to approve signing up to participate in Delco Gives. It was approved.

Programs: Tina Brunner reported that all spring programs are in place as listed in the January Bulletin.

Ed Center Director: Vincent DiAngelus reported that the winter clean up session on December 28 went well. Vincent also reported that he received a quote to re-coat the entire roof of the Ed Center in the spring and will share that quote in the coming week. Vincent stated that materials for the repair are extremely discounted right now. He then shared that the landscaper will take care of maintaining snow removal.

Class Manager: Steve Hansen reported that classes are set to start tomorrow and that extra Saturday Open Cab sessions have been added. Guest instructors Sulie Girardi and Storm Rise will be holding their sessions early next week. Steve shared that he has started working on the spring schedule and to please reach out to him if there is something you would like to take or teach.

Registrar: Barbara Bates reported that she will request that the Registrar’s email address be added to the Bulletin.

Acquisitions: Doug McNicol announced that Ingrid Ratsep donated 12 two-drawer metal cabinets that are presently in the Library. Doug asked to reach out to him if interested in them. Anna Thompson led discussion on an offer of materials available from the University of the Arts. Items include: two combination stone wheels with trim saws, two vibrating tumblers, a grinding lathe and benches. There is also a centrifugal casting machine for sale at \$750. Anna stated that she will share photos of the items via email so that a decision can be made as the items need to be off site by the end of January.

Equipment and Facilities: Don Schwarzkopf reported that he will address the motion sensor issue. He also reported that the locks will soon be re-keyed by the locksmith.

Library and eBay: Stacey Segal reported that any wheels that were changed out on Clean Up Day will be sold on eBay, as well as several boxes of books.

Gemarama: Anthony Lombardo reported on the last Gemarama meeting which included the review of financials and discussion of ideas to meet increased expenses. A motion was made to approve a surcharge of \$50 to dealers to help with increased costs. It was approved.

Webmaster: Frank Warner reported, on behalf of Zasha Morales-José, that the website is up to date.

Old Business

- Jody Shaw reported that she used the new software for the last Bulletin on a free trial and will meet with Ken Dahl to purchase it for the future.
- Stacey Segal reported that the flex shafts have arrived and are at the Ed Center, along with a maintenance kit. Stacey added that she will be meeting with Barry Messino for final plans to obtain the tool chest.

- Stacey Segal reported that the new rolling mill will be mounted on the jewelry bench in the jewelry room at the Ed Center.
- Don Schwarzkopf reported that Dennis Coren is handling the purchase of a new smelter. Dennis Coren suggested also purchasing a spare element to keep in stock in case of a burnout.
- Frank Warner reported that we now have a Stripe account that may work well as a payment system for our online software.

New Business

- Ingrid Ratsep reported that she is working with contacts for the open Committee Programs Chair position. Linda Green is willing to continue as our representative to DCAC, and has graciously volunteered to continue in the position until a replacement for that is secured.
- Ingrid Ratsep led a discussion about the need to continue using the phone tree, which hasn’t been put to use in many years. It was decided to contact members by email or phone when classes and meetings are canceled. [See page 5 for more information].
- Ken Dahl reported that the books are closed for the 2023 financials and presented the proposed budget for 2024. Ingrid Ratsep made a motion to approve the budget for 2024. It was approved.



The January 10 General Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Ingrid Ratsep. The meeting was held by Zoom. Attendance included 34 members and 11 guests. Ingrid Ratsep welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.

Ingrid Ratsep gave thanks on behalf of TLS to the following outgoing Board members and Officers: Eileen Magee for serving as Corresponding Secretary, and Doug McNicol and Anthony Lombardo as Directors.

Committee and other items discussed at the Board Meeting were briefly presented. In addition:

- Tina Brunner gave an overview of the programs in place for 2024. A presentation by Justin Prim will be given in February; the Silent Auction will be in March; Storm Rise will present in April; Matt Mosul will present in May, and the Awards Dinner will be held in June. Fall programs are being secured. Tina encouraged that anyone with interests and suggestions can reach out to her.
- Steve Hansen reported that registration for classes is in full swing. Steve also reported on the special workshops by guest instructors: Storm Rise’s workshop on gemstone carving sold out and a second workshop was added. Sulie Girardi presented six workshops on metal clay earlier this week.
- Dennis Coren encouraged SKIP participation in this new year.
- Ingrid Ratsep made a request that if anyone has experience with Adobe InDesign Software to please contact Jody Shaw as she would appreciate the assistance.

Following the meeting Tina Brunner gave a warm welcome and detailed introduction to Scott Sucher of Museum Diamonds, who gave a wonderful presentation on “Opal Digging in Australia”.

—From Tina Brunner, Assistant Programs Chair

February Program

The guest speaker for February is internationally renowned faceter and graduate gemologist Justin Prim. Justin will be giving a presentation on “How the Other Side Cuts”, contrasting American style faceting with traditional jamb-peg faceting, as practiced in Thailand, India, South America, Israel, and Europe.

Justin has been cutting gemstones for 11 years. He began by learning how to cut cabochons at the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society, moving on to carving, drilling, and free-hand faceting. He eventually got to try machine faceting on an UltraTec V2. Having found his field, Justin traveled to Scotland, England, Thailand, and Sri Lanka for more learning opportunities. Upon reaching Bangkok, Justin was offered an opportunity to teach faceting and help open a faceting school. In Sri Lanka, Justin learned to cut with a hand piece machine, and that became his preferred method.

Justin received gemology training at GIA’s London and Bangkok campuses, and attended school at the Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences (AIGS). He has learned from master faceters in the United States, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and France. He has, in turn, been an instructor for the AIGS and the Institute of Gem Trading (IGT) in Thailand.

Justin has also opened the Faceting Apprentice Institute (<https://www.facetingapprentice.com/>) in Lyon, France with his wife, faceter Victoria Raynaud. The FAI offers online instruction for faceting, and also offers in-person instruction. A two-week intensive faceting workshop, called “Faceting Bootcamp” in February in Brooklyn, NY, has already sold out. Justin is also the author of "The Secret Teachings of Gem-cutting", a book about the collective faceting wisdom of the world, with a collection of easy-to-cut patterns.

Since moving to France, Justin has begun to learn faceting on a jamb peg machine, with the stated goal to learn all he can from retiring faceters before the knowledge is gone forever.

This meeting will take place at the Springfield Township Building on February 14, 2024 at 7:30 PM, and in-person attendance is strongly recommended, since Justin has traveled a long way to give us this presentation.



—from John Chickadel

Winter Cleanup

We had a great turnout on Thursday, December 28th to help with our Winter class preparation session. Our very enthusiastic group, who graciously volunteered during the holidays, replaced and cleaned cabbing wheels, maintained our trim and slab saws, refreshed the dopping station, organized both the casting and jewelry studios, and performed general cleanup and resupply chores. In attendance were Marina Brunner, Tina Brunner, Jo-Anne Frazier, Bill Frazier, Bill Frampton, Steve Hansen, Doug McNicol, Doug Klieger, Maxine Burkholder, Barry Messino (on 12/21/23), Vi Hutchinson, Paul Stieff, Christy Potter, Kira Hecht, Alejandro Lopez, Kathy Lopez, Caridan Bradley and John Chickadel. Thank you, everyone!

—From Tina Brunner, Assistant Programs Chair

TLS Scouting Outreach

TLS has started a Scouting Outreach program in order to interest the younger generations in the lapidary arts. The pilot program took place on December 7, 2023 in Havertown with a local Girl Scout troop of Juniors.



The girls learned how to use UV-cure resin to make pendants from Tina Brunner. Each girl used the resin, a metal pendant frame, glitter, and dried flowers to make their pendants and the girls cured the pendants themselves with a UV lamp. The girls earned the Jewelry Maker Fun Patch for their hard work, and each girl went home with a piece of jewelry that she made all by herself.

Future programs for further outreach are being planned for both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts (now known as just Scouting). If you would like to lend a hand, please contact either Kathy Lopez at Kathy.lopez@me.com or Tina Brunner at zebu25may@protonmail.com.

All are welcome to participate, and we would love your input to develop this new program further. You don’t have to have experience with Scouting to help out!



Can't Go to Tucson?

The 42nd Tucson Mineral Symposium, held in conjunction with the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®, will take place on Saturday, February 10, 2024. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, the Friends of Mineralogy, and the Mineralogical Society of America. As a tie in with the show, the symposium theme is the same as the show theme: “Pegmatites: Crystals Big and Beautiful.”

There will be access to attend the symposium remotely through Zoom via a non-speaker computer. Remote attendance to the symposium is free. Remote viewers will need to register. Registration will close on February 7th, 2024. For information regarding the program and registration, go to <https://www.friendsofmineralogy.org/call-for-papers/>



International Flameworking Conference 2024

Each spring, Salem Community College hosts the International Flameworking Conference (IFC), a three-day event that promotes excellence in flameworking through artist demonstrations and scholarly presentations. The weekend attracts glass artists and enthusiasts from around the nation and world. The 2024 International Flameworking Conference, March 15 - 17, 2024, will be the 22nd installment of this nationally and internationally attended event that celebrates excellence in the glass-working process known as flameworking. There are some presentations in Friday evening's program, and demonstrations constitute the programs over the next two days. Further information regarding artists in the program, the presentations' and demonstrations' topics, ticket prices, and registration information can be found at the website <https://salemcc.edu/glass/international-flameworking-conference>

—From Linda Green, Community Programs Chair

TLS Community Programs

Winter 2024 is off to a busy start at TLS, with lots of great classes and workshops for both members and nonmembers alike. In addition to classes at the Education Center, community outreach is an important part of our mission as a PA Purely Public Charity. To this end, we have a yearly Open House, have tables at local rock and mineral shows, as well as at Brookhaven Borough Family Day. Recently, a Scouting Outreach Committee was formed to develop programs for Scouts. Tina Brunner recently held a program for a local troop. We hope to expand our offerings for both Boy and Girl Scouts.

The Delaware County Arts Consortium (DCAC), of which TLS is a member, is an opportunity for TLS to share what we are doing with other arts organizations in the county, but also learn what other nonprofits are doing at the monthly DCAC meetings. We recently learned about a new fundraising opportunity for nonprofits in Delaware County hosted by The Foundation for Delaware County called Delco Gives Day. Delco Gives Day is a 24-hour countywide day of giving and celebration, where people can contribute to their favorite nonprofit or peruse new organizations participating on the DelcoGives.org website. The inaugural Delco Gives Day will be held May 8-9 from 7:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. The TLS Board has approved our participation in this event. This is a wonderful way for TLS to raise money for our programs, but also spread the word about our organization. Stay tuned for more details about how TLS plans to participate in Delco Gives Day.

Since the Community Programs is expanding our offerings, I am looking for more volunteers to help with these programs. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at ldgreensniffles@me.com.



—From Tina Brunner, Assistant Programs Chair

Future Programs

We are beginning to schedule speakers for 2024. We welcome your suggestions for speakers or presentations.

Please contact either Kathy Lopez at Kathy.lopez@me.com or Tina Brunner at zebu25may@protonmail.com with your ideas.

- March 13, 2024 at 7:30 PM – Silent Auction, Springfield Township Building. Please consider donating good-quality rough, cut stones, lapidary and jewelry tools, finished jewelry, supplies, books, and other items for which you no longer have a need.
 - April 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM – Storm Rise, a New Zealand metal and lapidary artist, jewelry instructor, and owner of Gilded Poppy Makery in Melbourne, Australia (<https://www.gildedpoppy.com/>), will give a presentation on gemstone carving. This program is Zoom-only.
 - May 8, 2024 at 7:30 PM – Matt Moskal, a gifted local wire-wrapping genius, and owner of Matt’s Crazy Art YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@MattsCrazyArt/videos>) will give a presentation on wire wrapping, Springfield Township Building and Zoom.
 - June 12, 2024 - Annual Awards Dinner, Location TBD
- Many thanks to Steve Hansen and Vince DiAngelus for their program suggestions.

—Dennis Coren, Skill Improvement Program Chair

Take the TLS Challenge

Your friends from Tuscarora Lapidary Society Challenge you to show off your work!



How?



By submitting your Cabochon, Faceted Stone, Channel Jewelry, Intarsia, Intarsia-Jewelry, Sphere, Constructed Jewelry, Jewelry Casting, and Carving to the SKIP Program.

What is the SKIP Program?

Tuscarora’s Skill Improvement Program (SKIP) is dedicated to increasing higher levels of enjoyment and craftsmanship for its members. Each member is given the opportunity to have their work evaluated and graded as an Apprentice, Journey person and then Master. The skills become progressively more rigorous as you complete each project.

You are already working on special projects at home or at the Ed Center, why not share them with your friends?

Take the TLS Challenge, you will be glad you did.

For more information go to: [SKIP Booklet](#) or contact Dennis Coren: Houdini@comcast.net or 215-817-4444.



—From Jody Shaw, TLS Bulletin Editor

Emailed Bulletin Option

TLS members with email have the option of receiving the TLS Bulletin by email as a PDF file. This saves TLS money in printing and postage as well as being good for the environment, by using less paper, and saving trees.

Plus, you get to see all the photos in full color AND you receive the newsletter at least one full day earlier than those who get it by USPS, which may come in handy when registering for classes. In addition, the Bulletin can be “saved” on your computer for future reference. If a hard copy is easier for you to read, the PDF file can be printed out without losing format or graphics.

More than three-fourths of TLS members have already switched to the email option. If you, too, want to “go green” just drop me a note saying you’d like to opt for the email version of the Bulletin; my email address is jodyshawTLS@gmail.com. (This gives me a record of requests and lets me verify your email address.)

—Jody Shaw and Ingrid Ratsep

Member Spotlight

Our new TLS President, Ingrid Ratsep, will be the focus of the Member Spotlight this month. Her life has been “multi-faceted”! She is a scientist, bilingual, a teacher, and loves faceting.

Ingrid was born in New York and grew up in central New Hampshire on the northern end of Lake Winnepesaukee. Her parents fled from Estonia during WWII with the clothes they were wearing and went to a displaced persons camp in Germany. After the war, her parents immigrated to the United States. Ingrid and her sister Linda grew up speaking Estonian at home even though her parents were fluent in many languages, including English. She learned English when she went to school.

As a child, rocks were a fascination for Ingrid. When she was growing up, her mom had a rock garden. One day, a rock had split and exposed a quartz crystal. Ingrid thought she was the luckiest girl in the world for finding this small crystal. Swimming in the lakes near her childhood home, she and her sister would sift through the sand along the shoreline and, with tweezers, collect tiny garnet specimens.

Ingrid went to the University of New Hampshire where she earned her undergraduate degree in microbiology. She then went to the University of Toronto to earn a Diploma in Bacteriology. She continued her education at the University of Vermont, earning a double Ph.D. in microbiology and biochemistry.

After Vermont, Ingrid came to Philadelphia to work on various consulting jobs, including doing the environmental assessment for a section of the Blue Route. During that time, she designed a 1000-foot relocation of Darby Creek to accommodate the Blue Route, and a new wetland area to replace impacted wetlands by the new roadway. Afterwards, she continued as a consultant for several companies, leading her to start The Ratsep Group, an environmental science and engineering company with her sister. One of their big projects, along with a team of consultants, was to provide wetland hydraulic engineering expertise and plantings for a 35-square area of historically diked salt hay farms reopened to tidal inundation along the Delaware Estuary. Along with consulting, Ingrid also worked as an adjunct instructor in pathogenic microbiology at Jefferson University and Montgomery County Community College.

In addition, Ingrid volunteered as a translator for Estonian with Heifer International, a nonprofit organization that aims to enhance the breeding stock of farm animals. This led to the production of a 30-minute film titled “American Farmers as Problem Solvers,” filmed, produced, and edited in both English and Estonian by Ingrid.

Ingrid found TLS through a local silversmithing class. Her classmates had beautiful cabochons, and when asked where they had gotten them, she found out about Gemarama. She was enthralled with the faceting demonstrations at Gemarama and had to explore more! She went on to take cabbings at TLS and then after the second faceting class, was hooked.



She bought her machine and never looked back!

A member since 2000, Ingrid is a past TLS Board Director. She received the 2003 Coren award and served two years as Gemarama Chair. She is presently teaching faceting with Steve Hansen, who has taught her much about the fine points of faceting. Ingrid retired from consulting and teaching this past fall and was quickly asked to be President of TLS. She enthusiastically took the position to give back to an organization that had given her so much.



Ingrid has an assortment of hobbies. She enjoys basketweaving, especially Nantucket baskets! Along with her two Dobermans, she loves to garden, read, knit, and

sew. Faceting and silversmithing remain her favorites.

Co-teaching with Steve Hansen inspires Ingrid to continue improving her faceting skills and knowledge. She also loves to explore Pinterest, where there is an unbelievable assortment of pictures and jewelry ideas. She follows Chad’s Silversmithing and Estona Metalsmithing and Jewelry on YouTube. Ingrid does not sell her work, but she gives her work to friends as gifts and retains her favorite pieces.



Her love of rocks still permeates her life today. Ingrid always asks her friends to bring her a rock from their trips. She greatly appreciates the gift of lapidary arts that TLS has shared with her, and she strives to share that with others. She hopes to try some new classes now that she is retired, from the many talented teachers at TLS.



TLS Class/Meeting Cancellation System

If an evening meeting or class at the TLS Education Center or a General Meeting is canceled due to inclement weather or other needs, 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 daytime 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, an email will go out with more information.



Open Torch Sessions Added

Two additional days, March 16 & 17 have been added to the class schedule for Open Torch. Registration can be found at lapidary.org.

TLS Dues Are Past Due For 2024

Membership dues for 2024 were payable by December 31; now 2024 dues are in arrears. New-member dues paid by those who joined TLS this past fall in October, November, or December will carry through this year.

TLS Bylaws stipulate that members be suspended if dues are not paid by February 15. Reinstatement requires application to the TLS Board and payment of double dues.

If there is a financial hardship regarding your dues, confidential arrangements can be made to continue your TLS membership. Please contact TLS Vice President Doug McNicol at tismcnicol@comcast.net or 610-500-9562.

TLS has an online system that members can use to submit updates to their membership information and to pay their dues. Those members having email addresses have received a dues and membership data update notice by email. Following instructions in that email, corrections to membership data (addresses, phones, email addresses, Auxiliaries) can be submitted electronically. One TLS member per family received a link for online payment of the family dues. The online dues payment can be made through PayPal or by credit card.

Dues can also be paid by sending the form below, together with a check for dues owed, to the Treasurer. Please fill in your name(s), address, phone number(s), and email address(es) on the form below exactly as you wish to have that data appear in the 2024 TLS membership list.

2024 TLS DUES

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

Work phone(s) _____

Cell phone(s) _____

Email(s) _____

Please indicate type of membership.

- Individual full member.....\$40
- Couple (both spouses are full members.....\$60
- Auxiliary member (spouse of full member).....\$20
- Junior member.....\$10
- Newsletter only.....\$15
- Check here if you do not want your address on our mailing list.

**Make check payable to: Tuscarora Lapidary Society (TLS).
Mail form and check to:
Kenneth Dahl, Treasurer
18 Tenby Drive
Wilmington, DE 19803**

2024 Event Calendar

- February 24-25:** Crystal Fest Winter Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, USW Local 1000, Corning, NY
- March 2-3:** Delaware Mineralogical Society's Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Double Tree by Hilton, Wilmington, DE
- March 16-17:** GLMSMC Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Gaithersburg, MD
- March 23-24:** Philadelphia Mineralogical Society's Spring Show, Lulu Temple, Plymouth, PA
- March 23-24:** Che Hanna Rock and Mineral Club Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Wysox, PA
- May 15-19:** NJ Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show, NJ Expo Center, Edison, NJ
- April 13:** Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Midland Park High School, Midland Park, NJ
- June 8-9:** Gem Miner's Spring Show, Howard County Fairgrounds,, West Friendship, MD
- July 20-21:** Herkimer Diamond Gem Show, Herkimer County Fairgrounds, Frankfort, NY
- August 24-25:** St. Lawrence Rock & Mineral Club's 57th Annual Show, Canton, NY
- November 2-3: Gemarama, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA.**
- November 15-16:** Gem Miner's Jubilee Gem and Jewelry Show, Lebanon Valley Fairgrounds and Expo, Lebanon, PA
- November 15-17:** Gem Miner's Holiday Gem Jewelry & Gift Show, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Lebanon, PA

Lapidary Links

With this new year, Lapidary Links will focus on databases relating to lapidary, metal, and glass. Please forward any that you visit for inclusion in this feature to jodyshawtls@gmail.com.

Since this month's program for our General Meeting is a presentation on faceting, Gemology Online, a non-profit forum for the exchange of gemological ideas, has a forum with the topic "Faceting Design Database". Here you will find links to many, many faceting designs. <https://www.gemologyonline.com/Forum/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=17623&start=45>



In The News

If you see something newsworthy to share with our members, please send link to JodyshawTLS@gmail.com. *Thank you to Linda Green and Pam Wingrod for their submissions this month.*

German Gemstone Cutter Tom Munsteiner Dies at Age 54
<https://agta.org/in-memoriam-german-gemstone-cutter-tom-munsteiner-dies-at-age-54/>

Miners Discover Seven-Foot Mammoth Tusk in North Dakota
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/miners-discover-seven-foot-mammoth-tusk-in-north-dakota-180983569/#:~:text=Coal%20miners%20in%20North%20Dakota,Mine%20near%20Beulah%2C%20North%20Dakota.>

Moon Rocks with Unique Dust Found
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/01/240118122218.htm>

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 click [HERE](#) and then click Items for Sale, or:

- Go to 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.



— From Linda Green, Community Programs Chair

TLS Needs Your Help!

Social Media is a great way for TLS to reach out to members, students, jewelers, rock hounds and the community in general. Over the past few years our Social Media presence has been growing. TLS is on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube; links can be found on our website, by searching each channel, or on page 6 of this Bulletin.

In order to build our following, TLS needs your help! Here are some ways you can help spread the word about our great organization and all the classes and activities we offer.

- FOLLOW us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.
- LIKE and COMMENT on our posts on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.
- SHARE with your friends and family and encourage them to follow us and like our posts as well.
- WE NEED PHOTOS! Please send photos from classes and other TLS events for posting on Facebook and Instagram to Linda Green (ldgreensniffles@me.com).
- If you post to your own Facebook and Instagram pages about classes, items you have made in class or other TLS activities, please remember to TAG us. We may feature your post in our STORIES.

If you are interested in helping create YouTube video-content for the TLS YouTube Channel please let us know. Remember we need everyone’s help to grow our Social Media presence. PLEASE, we need more photos.



Follow TLS on Instagram

In addition to Facebook we are on Instagram (@tuscaroralapidary). Please “Follow” us and “Like”, “Comment” and “Share” our posts. Feel free to repost our posts on your feed but please indicate that the post came from @tuscaroralapidary.

Please use the following handles and hashtags when posting TLS content to your feeds or stories:

@tuscaroralapidary #gemarama #picturesinstone

TLS Has a Facebook Page

Our online presence, particularly on Facebook, is a great way for TLS to share and connect with members, potential new members, and the community in general. In order to build our fan base, we need your help! Here are some ways in which you can assist.

- “Like” the Tuscarora Lapidary Society page on Facebook.
- Share information about TLS on Facebook, and invite your friends to “like” the TLS page.
- Send photos from classes and events to post on the TLS page. Be sure to give a few details, such as when and/or where the photo was taken, and who and/or what is pictured.
- Send event information, announcements, or reminders that you would like posted on the TLS Facebook page to Linda Green at ldgreensniffles@me.com.
- If you post about TLS classes or events on your own Facebook page, be sure to tag us.



TLS YouTube Channel

You can gain access to our channel by clicking the red YouTube logo in the “Follow us on Social Media” section at the bottom of our website home page, lapidary.org, or go to page 7 here in the Bulletin and click on the YouTube logo. The channel contains eight videos: Making a Faceted Gem, Micromounts by Alfred C. Webber, TLS Glass Program, Gemarama Exhibit Highlights, Making a Cabochon, TLS Lapidary Program, Building the Tuscarora Lapidary Society Education Center, and the TLS Jewelry Program. The Making a Cabochon video has now been viewed over 7,200 times and the TLS Lapidary Program video has over 8,700 views!



Instructor Benefit

It is TLS policy that TLS members who teach a regular course (fall, winter, spring, or summer) or a substantial workshop may, within the following twelve months, take a regular class or workshop without paying the normal member tuition. Any special course fees or materials fees in excess of tuition must be paid by the member making use of this benefit.

Instructors who wish to take advantage of this policy must advise the Registrar of the specific course or workshop for which they would like to use the benefit.



—From Ken Dahl, Treasurer

Reimbursement For Purchases

Please direct all personal requests for reimbursement, for approved items purchased for purposes of TLS, to the TLS Treasurer’s email account -- TuscaroraLS@outlook.com -- and include receipts with the request, or leave the paperwork in the cubby of the desk at the Ed Center. Thank you!

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. Some meetings are by Zoom only. Check lapidary.org for the current schedule.

2024 TLS OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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TLS IS A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETIES (EFMLS), AND AFFILIATED WITH THE
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES (AFMS).

EFMLS  Follow TLS on Facebook  YouTube Videos  Follow TLS on Instagram  AFMS 

Things to Know if You Move to the South

1. A possum is a flat animal that sleeps in the middle of the road.
2. There are 5,000 types of snakes and 4,998 of them live in the South.
3. There are 10,000 types of spiders. All 10,000 of them live in the South, plus a couple no one's seen before.
4. If it grows, it'll stick ya. If it crawls, it'll bite cha.
5. Onced and twiced are words.
6. Jawl-P? means: Did you all go to the bathroom?
7. People actually grow, eat, and like okra.
8. Fixinto is one word. It means I'm going to do something.
9. There is no such thing as lunch. There is only dinner and then there's supper.
10. Iced tea is appropriate for all meals and you start drinking it when you're two. We do like a little tea with our sugar.
11. Backwards and forwards means I know everything about you.
12. The word jeet is actually a question meaning, 'Did you eat?'
13. You don't have to wear a watch, because it doesn't matter what time it is, you work until you're done or it's too dark to see.
14. Y'all is singular. All Y'all is plural.
15. All the festivals across the state are named after a fruit, vegetable, grain, insect, or animal.
16. You carry jumper cables in your car for your OWN car.
17. You only own five spices: salt, pepper, mustard, Tabasco, and ketchup.
18. The local papers cover national and international news on one page, but require 6 pages for local high school sports, motorsports, and gossip.
19. Everyone you meet is a Honey, Sugar, Miss (first name), or Mr (first name)
20. Fried catfish is the other white meat.
21. We don't need no dang Driver's Ed. If our mama says we can drive, we can drive!!!
22. You understand these jokes and forward them to your Southern friends and those who just wish they were from the south.