

ROCK CHIPPINGS



The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills
Rock Chippers, Inc.

Volume 53 Number 2
February 2012

Club Calendar

February
11th Class
Dichroic Glass
10am-Thalia's
Home

February
14th
Business
Meeting
7:00pm at Thalia's
Home

February
18th
Pot Luck
Theme Italian
6:30 pm

February
19th
FRA Meeting
10:30am
Thalia's Home

Program
Silent Auction

From the President....

A big thank you to the members who were actively participating at our January meeting with suggestions and volunteering to fill responsibilities. Juliet has taken on the Refreshment Chair and with it responsibility for our kitchen. Larry Bradbury, Antonia Jensen and Mary Beth Pio will be setting up the society showcase which will be exhibited at many shows until our show in October. They need loans of items that were made in our classes. Our first showing will be March 3-4 at the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society's show. The committee needs time to make the arrangement, make labels and photograph it. This makes it easy for the next volunteer to set it up and the next show. **Bring items you wish to display to the February meeting.**

An important resolution from the Board was announced at the January meeting by Mark Evidon, our new Corporate Administrator. This changes the text of our bylaws to match our standing rule that the President as well as the Treasurer has authority to sign checks and other financial instruments. **This will be voted on at the February meeting.**

A request was made for additional wire wrapping sessions on a monthly basis. Many clubs have sub-groups with special interests. A Sunday afternoon was suggested as a good time. If there is enough interest Kathy will arrange this. Details will be worked out and announced soon.

We are well underway for an exciting year ahead.

Thanks, Thalia



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Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Larry Bradbury at info@rockchippers.org

Future Rockhounds of America

For any questions regarding membership in the FRA please email Thalia Goldsworthy at info@rockchippers.org

Regular club meetings are held at 7:30PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month at:
Canoga Park Community Center 7248 Owensmouth Ave. Canoga Park

Visit our website www.rockchippers.org

WHRC Editor: Mary Beth Pio P.O. Box 205 Woodland Hills, 91365



Polished Agate Slabs



Anniversary this Month

February 18th

Gene & Lillian Berwager



Future Rockhounds of America

We are underway with our new meeting time and day - the third Sunday of the month 10:30am to 12:30pm. We had a great time on January 22nd with our postponed Holiday Party. We played Rocky Bingo and had prizes from member donations and Thalia's old collection surprise packages. February we will be working on unfinished badges and planning a presentation to the general meeting for May. Parent and child guests are always welcome.

Thalia Goldsworthy, FRA Advisor



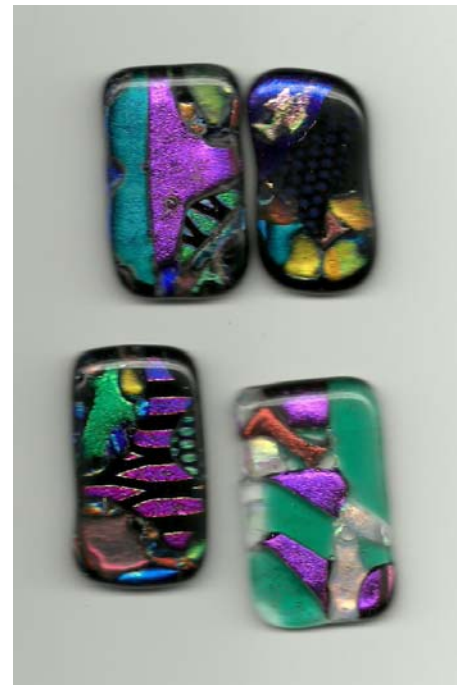
Classes

The February 11th class is about Dichroic Glass Fusing that WHRC is offering 10am - 2pm at the home of Thalia Goldsworthy. She has all of the materials that you will need for the class. If you have a pair of tweezers that have sharp points bring them. They will help with the placement of the small glass pieces.

The class fee is \$25.00. This includes enough glass to make 4 or 5 pieces, depending on size. You will learn how to cut glass, prepare your item/s for the kiln and have at least one item fired during the class. The firing and cooling process takes 2 hours. Bring a lunch so you can stay until the first batch is cool enough to handle. You will learn that the kiln load needs to have items of similar size for the best results, therefore the loads will be assembled according to that requirement. The remaining items for each of you will be fired after the class.

Tentative WHRC Class Schedule 2012

January	Ming Tree - Wire with seed or chip beads
February	Dichroic Glass Pendants
March	"Man" Wire Wrap for Dichroic Pendants
April	Spaced bead knotting necklace
May	Bail and décor for donut shaped stones
June	Silver-smith series, pendant
July	Continuation of silver-smith classes
August	Copper etching ala Dale Keel
September	Copper bead enameling
October	Non-solder jump ring chains
November	Continuous strand necklace bead knotting
December	No class



Pearl Jewelry Cleaning Tips

By Stanley Haggy

It is a known fact that pearl jewelry are normally considered an extremely valuable item in any individual's possession. This is why it is extremely important that individuals who own pearls, know how to maintain the condition of their pearl jewelry, so as to ensure that their pearls have the longest lifespan possible, and stay as pristine and beautiful as possible. Experienced pearl owners will know that maintaining the glow of pearls can be difficult but possible, with the few tips listed below.

One of the most basic methods you can employ to keep your pearl jewelry in the best condition possible is to clean them after you wear them. All you need to do is to take a cloth and soak it in warm soap water, and then proceed to wipe your pearls gently. This is especially important if you have been wearing your pearls for several hours, as dirt and sweat can build up between the pearls

Pearls, which are conceived organically, react badly to any sort of chemical substance that it might be exposed to. This is why you need to protect it, and ensure that it is not exposed to any man-made chemicals. The most common type of chemicals that affect pearl jewelry, happens to be perfumes and cosmetics. However, in order to prevent your pearls from being contaminated, all you need to do is make sure that you wear your pearl jewelry last, after you have applied all the necessary cosmetics or lotions.

If you need to store your pearl jewelry, you should always remember to store them in a silk pouch, which is normally provided by the pearl jeweler. These pouches allow for airflow, and will benefit your pearls in the long run, compared to any other type of plastic container.

When storing the pearls, it also helps to ensure that the pearls are not stored alongside any other sharp objects such as rings, necklaces or loose gems. This is because pearls get scratched very easily, and should always be well protected and stored.



Pearl earring from the Roman Empire first to third century C.E.

Pearls can also be affected by high temperatures, which is why you should always keep them at room temperature, or in a cool place. When exposed to prolonged periods of heat, pearls tend to dull, which is why you should always avoid keeping them near any electrical appliance, such as a television set or a room heater. This is due to the fact that the nature habitat of pearls is the sea, where the temperature is constantly cool.

Restraining your pearl jewelry once every few years is also highly recommended, as over time, the nylon that holds your pearls together, can be weakened considerably. As a result, you should always check with your jeweler on the condition of the nylon or string in order to prevent them from breaking under any form of duress.

With these few points in mind, you should be able to keep your pearls in a satisfactory condition, giving you pearl jewelry that lasts a lifetime.

Article Source: <http://www.upublish.info>

About the Author:

Stanley Haggy

One common website where many people get tips and updates on useful methods that can be used to care for your [pearl jewelry](#), is www.fairpearl.com. You should check it out.



Early seventh century bracelet with pearls, sapphires & chalcedony excavated in Upper Egypt.



Chalice of Abbe Suger from the Abbey of Saint-Denis, is decorated with pearls, precious gems and gold. The sardonyx cup is from the second to first century B.C.E.

Mother Of Pearl Sterling Silver Jewelry Part I Historical Value

By David John Turner

Article Summary: During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England, Europeans gave Mother of Pearl its name. However the beauty of Mother of Pearl, associated birthstone of June, has been used in the decoration of precious jewels and ornaments as far back as 3000 years before the birth of Christ.

Mother Of Pearl In Mesopotamia

In the 1920s, a series of tombs were excavated to the east of the site of Babylon in the Middle East. The tombs were of Sumerian royalty from ancient Mesopotamia and yielded a treasure trove of amulets, rings and necklaces made of gold, silver, ivory, amethyst, carnelian, lapis and other semi-precious gemstones. However, it was the unearthing of several beautiful wooden ornaments and musical instruments inlaid with Mother of Pearl, that illustrated just how sophisticated this ancient culture actually was.



The Silver lyre of Ur, found in one of the graves in the Royal Cemetery, dates back to between 2600 and 2400 B.C. The Silver lyre, ancestor to the modern harp, was found in the Great Death Pit accompanied by 70 men and women who had been buried with their Queen. Miraculously well preserved, the lyre was entirely covered in sheet silver and inlaid with Mother of Pearl. The silver cow's head decorating the front has inlaid eyes of shell and lapis lazuli, and the edges, borders and plaques of the sound box are inlaid with Mother of Pearl. Such instruments were important parts of rituals in the royal courts and temples. There are more representations of lyre players inlaid in Mother of Pearl on the infamous Standard of Ur, a wooden box believed to recount the story of Ur.

The method the Sumerian artisans used to decorate wooden objects was to cut a design from the shell, cut the same form out of the wooden setting, and to fill the spaces and setting of the engraving with bitumen, which after acting as glue hardened forming the background. Animal scenes, inlaid with Mother of Pearl shell and colored gemstones such as lapis or carnelian, were particularly popular motifs used in such decoration. This method of inlay was popular throughout Asia and Asia Minor up to the time of the Ottoman Empire, and although refined the same method is still practiced by the artisans of Turkey and Egypt today.

Mother Of Pearl In Asia

In Asia, centuries before the birth of Christ, the Chinese learned that beads or tiny figures of deities slipped between the soft mantle and the shell of a living mollusk soon became coated with Mother of Pearl. These beads and carvings were then taken to the temples and offered to the gods in the hope that they would bestow good luck upon the donor. Mother of Pearl, like jade, soon held a position of high status in Chinese society and became interlinked with stories of gods and mythical creatures.

One such story is the tale told in the Tao classic *The History of The Great Light*, written by Huai Nan Tzu during the Han dynasty at the beginning of the first millennium A.D. In the book there are eight stories of eight

mortals who, through their good deeds, were rewarded with everlasting life. The eighth of these stories tells the tale of Ho Hsien Ku, who was instructed in a vision that if she ate Mother of Pearl she would gradually become immortal. She did as the vision instructed, living in the mountains and eventually dispensing with mortal food. Ho Hsien Ku started to float from peak to peak becoming more and more ethereal, finally attaining her quest she was renamed The Immortal Maiden symbolized in the Tao philosophy by the lotus flower.

During the Confuciusan Tang dynasty, as Buddhism spread to Korea and Japan, China absorbed and unified a vast territory that had formerly been divided into North and South China. The Tang Dynasty, lasting from 600 A.D. to 900 A.D., was a period of widespread prosperity and trade that stretched from inner Asia to the archipelagos of South East Asia. With the promise of great wealth, many mariners and merchants from all over the Pacific were attracted to China, bringing with them precious cargos of Pearls, Mother of Pearl and many other precious and semi-precious gemstones.

In ancient China Mother of Pearl, apart from finding its way into rings and necklaces, was used in profusion as a decorative inlay in ornaments such as vanity mirrors and brushes, and in later centuries would feature heavily as an inlay in Chinese and Korean furniture. Interestingly, the Chinese also used Mother of Pearl in medicine, prescribing it for over a thousand years as an aid to reduce heart palpitations, dizziness, and high blood pressure.

Mother Of Pearl In Mesoamerica

In 800 A.D. Mesoamerica there existed an ancient civilization called the Toltecs. Ancestors to the Aztecs, they were feared and revered respectively for their military prowess and artistic culture. The Toltec had widespread influences from the Mayan populations in Guatemala to the Anasazi Indians in Arizona. Archeological excavations as far inland as Chaco Canyon, land marked by the towering Fajada Butte and its mysterious Sun Dagger rock carvings, have revealed Toltec treasures of ornamental jewelry and sculptures inlaid with Mother of Pearl from as far away as the Pacific Rim.

Still to this day the descendants of the Toltecs, the Yaqui Indians of Mexico immortalized in the shamanic tales of Carlos Castaneda, wear a necklace called the Hopoorosim. The necklace is made of Mother of Pearl and is believed to provide the wearer with protection from evil. In Americas southwest of today, Navajo, Pueblo, and Hopi native American silversmiths, trained in age old lapidary techniques fuse the ancient into contemporary designs using sterling silver, gold, lapis lazuli, pearl, fire opal, coral and of course Mother of Pearl.

Mother Of Pearl In The Pacific

By the 1500s Europe's growing demand for Mother of Pearl used in gold and silver rings, necklaces, brooches and buttons had all but depleted the supplies of Mother of Pearl in the Persian Gulf. However the nobility of Europe were already taken with a new species of pearl producing oyster heralding from the Pacific: *Pinctada Margaritifera*, renowned for its spectacular grey to black color and large size it surpassed the beauty of any of its counterparts found in the Persian Gulf. And with the opening of new trade routes throughout the world, particularly to Asia, the Pacific witnessed a rush of European traders and explorers eager to profit from its wealth of Mother of Pearl.

In 1568 the Solomon Islands, known as The Pearl of the Pacific, were discovered by the Spanish explorer, Alvaro de Mendana. On discovering the Islands rich bounty of gold and Mother of Pearl he gave the archipelago its current name, believing that he had found the mythical source of King Solomon's mines. However, it was in fact the Aus-

tronesians, a Neolithic people from South East Asia, who had first settled the Solomon Islands more than 4000 years prior to Mendanas arrival. Evidence of their great wealth of Mother of Pearl can be seen in the inlay appearing in many of their tribal shields and statues of gods and spirits.

From Tahiti to Bora Bora the Polynesian archipelago stretches out to the size of Western Europe. The Islands were supposedly discovered by the European Magellan, and again in 1595 by Mendana. However, long before their arrival Mother of Pearl and pearl had already attained a god-like status.



In Polynesian lore, the iridescence of Mother of Pearl is attributed to the spirits of coral and sand, Okana and Uaro, who as legend has it adorned the Tahitian oysters in glistening cloaks covered in all the colors of the fish of the ocean. It is also said that Oro, the Polynesian god of peace and fertility, came down to earth and offered a special pearl called Te Ufi, the black pearl, to the beautiful princess of Bora Bora as a sign of his love. But by the middle of the 1800s with Europe's lust for Mother of Pearl the Pacific Islands had been practically stripped bear of its oysters, and with its disappearance the stories passed into legend.

However, in 1880 France gained control of Tahiti, now called French Polynesia, and actions were taken to restrict the plundering of the seabed. Other countries followed suite and by the 1900s, with the spread of western civilization, restrictions were imposed on the fishing industry throughout the Pacific, and the world had to look elsewhere in their search for Mother of Pearl.

European exploration of the Pacific Islands in search of Mother of Pearl continued, and in the 1920s it was discovered for the last time on a remote Island of the New Hebrides. But when explorers Sperry and Evans stumbled upon the use of Mother of Pearl, it was far from what they expected. "In the opposite corner of the central hut a line of mummies were placed like a barricade. Bushy mops of hair still clung to the heads, and their faces wore masks of clay, with huge eyes of Mother of Pearl that shone through the gloom staring at us with an uncanny effect." In fact the mummies weren't ancestral members of the tribe, but were the bodies of a rival tribe of cannibals!

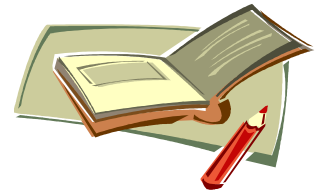
In Americas 1900s, where Mother of Pearl had been previously used as an inlay in furniture, it now found a new use in fashion as buttons. Iowa became the center of the trade, shipping billions of iridescent fasteners until World War II, when newly invented plastics undercut the prices of Mother of Pearl buttons, all but driving them out of the market. The majority of Americas Mother of Pearl was sourced from the Gulf of California's Abalone oysters. But these sources, like others throughout the world, were almost depleted and it wasn't until the discovery of new-cultured farming techniques in Japan that the worlds Mother of Pearl producing oysters saw a return in numbers.

[Article Source: http://www.upublish.info](http://www.upublish.info)

*See next months bulletin for part two:

Mother Of Pearl Sterling Silver Jewelry Part II Facts And Care

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes,
January 21, 2012



Called to order by President, Thalia Goldsworthy at 7:30 p.m.

Pot Luck theme: Favorite Dish.

Bob Meyers led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Larry introduced guests:

Teresa Glass

Dick & Mary Pat Weber

Verna Montgomery

Mary Matthews

Bowdy & Kathy Aggers

Minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer: Barbara-No report-Books are being audited.

Lisa paid P.O. Box for one year 1/20/12-rates to go up from \$62.00 to \$76.00 on 1/22/12. If payment made before 1/22/12 old rate will apply.

Corporate Adm.-Mark-He will do change of officers form for CFMS. He reported: at Business meeting Jan. 10th a resolution was made by Board to amend wording of Bylaws Article 6 Section 2. insert "or the President" following Treasurer.

Old Business:

Mary Beth needed memberships approval of Rock & Gem show date: October 20th.

Bob Meyers made a motion to approve Oct. 20th, 2012 as the show date-Barbara seconded. Motion approved.

Yard Sale-Discussion as to whether membership wanted to have yard sale. There was a majority show of hands for interest in having a yard sale. Time and Date will be decided by board.

Issue about whether to sell old TV at yard sale. Virginia made a motion to sell old TV at yard sale-Chuck seconded-motion approved.

Kathy made a motion to use proceeds from yard sale to purchase new TV. Barbara 2nd. Discussion-Then amended motion to purchase a TV or projector-Kathy made amended motion & Barbara seconded-Discussion-We can use someone's lap top with a projector.-amended motion was approved.

It is the policy of the W.H.R.C. Board that no minutes from the monthly Business Meetings are to be published in the Bulletin. The Business meeting minutes may be reviewed by contacting the society's Secretary. (Continued on page 10)

New Business

Barbara went to Chamber of Commerce and was told that Nonprofit organizations have access to a Free Booth at Saturday's Farmers Markets. Booth is for advertising organization-not for selling. Thalia asked membership if anyone wanted to take this on and see it through. No volunteers. Issue will be referred back to the board.

Presentation, given by Dick and Mary Pat Weber on "Septarian Nodules from Utah" was started at 7:55 pm. Ended at 8:35 pm.

We took a short 15 minute break and meeting reconvened at 8:50pm.

Thalia thank everyone who volunteered to work on this years team. She introduced herself, Barbara and Lisa.

Bookkeeping is very important. Need to fill out forms and submit with receipt; ie: Ways & Means, Program, etc. Discussion: suggestion given that form be used at our Rock & Gem show. Thalia thought that's a good idea.

Auditor-Virginia-She is auditing the books.

Bulletin-Mary Beth-She needs articles, pictures and lapidary jokes, etc. Please submit by 25th of each month.

Classes/Workshops will be chaired & coordinated by Kathy Turner.

Feb. 11th is Dichroic Glass Class-it is filled but please write your name as possible alternate. Classes will be 2nd Sat of the month. Mary Beth would like a wire wrap class once a month she even volunteered her home if needed.

Courtesy/Hospitality-Lillian Berwager-She would like everyone's Birthday-month & day not year.

Membership: Larry-Please have dues in by February 1st. Next month he will provide roster.

Community Outreach-Thalia-She received email from Scout Troop in Lancaster.

Display/Education: Larry Bradbury volunteered to do display for Ventura Rock Show 1st weekend in March. Material from members is needed-small rocks & slabs, jewelry and or even items from class projects. He will reserve case. Mary Beth volunteered to do Conejo Show case.

Display case is put in Ventura's show, Conejo, Oxnard, Ventura Fair and Chatsworth library.

Historian-Gene Berwager-If anyone would like to contribute to organizations scrapbook-need pictures of field trips.

Librarian-Barbara-All books are in wood cabinet in closet. She will post a list of books in library on closet door. See Barbara if you want to check a book out.

Federation Director-Virginia Rotramel-CFMS has two meetings a year. July 13, 14, 15th will be held in Riverside Convention Center. They might need to borrow our display cases.

Mark made a motion to allow CFMS to borrow our show cases in July-Chuck seconded motion-motion approved. Second meeting of the year will be held in November in Visalia.

If anyone would like to fill Alternate Federation Director slot-See Thalia or Virginia.

Field Trips: March 24th will be a trip to the San Gabriel Bead Co. Virginia mentioned Bowers Museum in Santa Ana for Chinese beads. Exhibit ends March 4th.

Show Chair: Mary Beth Pio

Meetings for planning show will start in April. She has some new ideas. If catering trucks are a possibility Mark suggests talking to church-getting permission. Also see if they would be willing to let us use their kitchen. More discussion later.

Shop Committee-Bob Meyers-We have less than six months to find a new shop site. Need to move it from Jean's house.

Ways and Means: Virginia

She thanked everyone for participating last year. There was a \$200.00 budget out of which \$170.00 was used and \$800.00 was brought in-Great Job.

Webmaster: Thalia

Check website often.

Refreshments will be coordinated by Juliet. Please sign up on the sign up sheet.

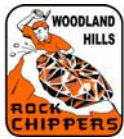
Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Raffle and Refreshments were provided after meeting.

Refreshments brought in from Mary Beth Pio.

Thank you Mary Beth.

Submitted by Lisa Evidon, Secretary



Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Incorporated



Our organization, a non-profit corporation, was formed for educational and instructive purposes: to foster collection and study of minerals, to disseminate knowledge about them, to sponsor field trips to find them, to encourage the use of them in lapidary and faceting studies, etc. And to have one whale of a good time doing those things with all of our friends.



Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Potlucks are at 6:30 p.m.



Field trips are at various times throughout the month. Guests are always welcome to attend.



Membership is open to interested applicants after they have attended at least 2 meetings. Annual dues are due in November for the following year. Membership fees are currently \$25 for one adult, \$15 for a second adult at the same address, juniors (ages 10-18) and pebble pups (ages 4-9) \$5 each. New members pay an additional \$6 initiation fee per person. Late joining new members may have lower dues as they are prorated after mid-year.

We are a member society of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Elected Officers/Directors

President	Thalia Goldsworthy	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Kathy Turner
Secretary	Lisa Evidon	Director At Large	Larry Bradbury
Corp. Adm.	Mark Evidon	Director At Large	Antonia Jensen

Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor.....	Virginia Rotramel	Librarian.....	Barbara Bradbury
Bulletin Editor	Mary Beth Pio	Library Displays.....	Open
Classes/Workshop.....	Kathy Turner	Membership.....	Larry Bradbury
Courtesy/Hospitality...	Lillian Berwager	Parliamentarian.....	Open
Custodian.....	Jason Peterson	Programs.....	Open
Display/Education.....	Open	Publicity.....	Loraine Taneja
Federation Director....	Virginia Rotramel	Shop	Jean Buetow, Bob Meyers, Mary Beth Pio
Alternate Fed Director.....	Open	Club Show Chair.....	Mary Beth Pio
Field Trips.....	Committee	Ways and Means.....	Virginia Rotramel
FRA.....	Thalia Goldsworthy	Webmaster.....	Thalia Goldsworthy
Historian.....	Gene Berwager		



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