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The LAPIDARIAN

Maple Ridge Lapidary Club Newsletter January 2014, Vol. 3, Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR

REMINDERS

- **Annual General Meeting** is Thursday **February 6th**, 2013 at 6:30 pm, Chinese food will be served courtesy of the Club. Adult members are urged to attend so we have quorum
- 2014 memberships must be paid prior to the meeting in order to participate in voting
- Don't forget to pick up Raffle Tickets when you are at the Club. We hope to exceed 2013 sales but we need everyone's help to meet that goal
- Next meeting of the MRLC Mine Ores will be Saturday February 9th at 9am at the Club
- Rendezvous is being held May 16-19, 2014 in **Armstrong** (not Ashcroft as noted in the December newsletter – apologies offered); hosted by Vernon Lapidary & Mineral. Check for details at: www.lapidary.bc.ca



Upcoming Club Shows: No Shows are scheduled in February – more details on March shows will be in the February newsletter or check the BCLS website: www.lapidary.bc.ca

Our MRLC Show which is March 1 & 2 this year. We will be offering 4 classes this year!

Check the Club website (<http://www.mrlclub.com/index.html>) for more information and don't forget to sign up to help in the kitchen, on the front door, demonstrating, etc. People are also needed to help with set up and take down of the tables and displays. Every member can help in some way, large or small, to make our 2014 Show the best yet!



Field Trips: As always, check the BC Lapidary Society website for more information: [http:// www.lapidary.bc.ca/trips.html](http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/trips.html)

Field Trip: Agate, Jade & River Rock, Yale Bar, Sunday February 9, 2014, meet at 9 am at Rancher's Restaurant at Bridal Falls, 53560 Bridal Falls Road, Rosedale, BC. Material: Agate, Sillimanite, Jade and Large River Rock. Equipment: Rock hammer, bucket, digging tools, gloves, waterproof boots, warm clothing. Accessible by car (full tank of gas). Bring food, water and a back pack. Be sure to check with the Wagon Master BEFORE you go! Wagon Master Harley Waterson, 604-590-3289.

What is sillimanite?

The following excerpt from Wikipedia provides this information on sillimanite:

Sillimanite is an aluminosilicate [mineral](#) with the [chemical formula](#) Al_2SiO_5 . Sillimanite is named after the American chemist [Benjamin Silliman](#) (1779–1864). It was first described in 1824 for an occurrence in [Chester, Middlesex County, Connecticut, USA](#).^[3]

Sillimanite is one of three aluminosilicate [polymorphs](#), the other two being [andalusite](#) and [kyanite](#). A common variety of sillimanite is known as *fibrolite*, so named because the mineral appears like a bunch of fibres twisted together when viewed in [thin section](#) or even by the naked eye. Both the fibrous and traditional forms of sillimanite are common in [metamorphosed sedimentary rocks](#). It is an [index mineral](#) indicating high temperature but variable pressure.

Example rocks include [gneiss](#) and [granulite](#). It occurs with andalusite, kyanite, [potassium feldspar](#), [almandine](#), [cordierite](#), [biotite](#) and [quartz](#) in [schist](#), gneiss, [hornfels](#) and also rarely in [pegmatites](#).^[2]

Sillimanite has been found in [Brandywine Springs, New Castle County, Delaware, USA](#). It was named by the State Legislature in 1977 as the state mineral of Delaware by suggestion of the [Delaware Mineralogical Society](#), Inc.^[4]

Natural sillimanite rocks cut into the required shape and size are used mainly in [glass](#) industries.

Birthstone of the Month: Garnet

By her who in this month (January) is born
No gem save [garnets](#) should be worn;
They will ensure her constancy,
True friendship, and fidelity.

According to Wikipedia the poem above was first published in a pamphlet by Tiffany & Co. in 1870. While the author is listed as unknown, the poems are attributed to the Gregorian calendar which is also

called the Western calendar or the Christian calendar. A chart included on Wikipedia shows that garnets were the stone of choice in for January in the 15th-20th centuries and the US and Britain were in agreement with that in 2013. Hindu culture is listed as preferring serpent stone – no information is given on this particular stone. January babies – do you wear garnets to brighten your days?

PROJECT

This month's first project from Jewelry Making Daily (January 29, 2014) provides information on caring for your chain. The second project, also from Jewelry Making Daily (January 10, 2013) provides some tips on metal stamping and resolution reminders.

Chain Making: Take Wire from Functional to Fabulous, Plus 7 Tips on Caring for Chain

One of the most fun and creative ways to use wire, I think, is to make your own custom chain--any size, shape, texture, or length you want. Spirals, coils, round links, square links, long links, short links . . . textured and not, patinated and not . . . Dr. Seuss (and I) could go on and on about all the kinds of chain you can make with simple wire!



One of the most fun ways to make your own chain is by fusing fine silver links together. Fine silver fuses to itself, no need for solder!

And then you can start mixing links for even more interesting chain. I enjoy making short lengths of chain (or harvesting bits of chain from old jewelry for upcycling) and then connecting all different kinds of chain into one necklace. If you space the chain out well, it's many necklaces (or bracelets) in one, because you can turn any piece to the back to show off another section in the front. A good tip for that design is to create balance, pairing bold/heavy and small/delicate chain evenly, both visually and in terms of weight, so that the chain won't always slide around and have the same piece in front.

7 Great Tips to Maintain your Chain!

Here are seven great tips to help you care for your chain jewelry, from fellow Interweave jewelry editor Jane Dickerson.

1. Daily Care

When you remove your jewelry, wipe off the chain with a lint-free polishing cloth that has no abrasives. If you have been wearing perfume, rinse the chain with water, pat it dry, then follow with the polishing cloth. This is great for day-to-day maintenance: cleaning off fingerprints, skin oils, scents, and surface dirt.

2. Storage

Yvonne Padilla of Rio Grande recommends that you place your jewelry in an air-tight, ziploc bag along with an anti-tarnish strip. These strips are fantastic—completely safe and non-toxic. They absorb moisture and neutralize tarnish-producing gases in the air. They will last up to 6 months or longer if placed in a sealed environment. They work for silver, brass, copper, nickel, bronze, tin, and gold. Copper is the villain when it comes to tarnishing, so any metal that contains copper will tarnish. Clean your chains thoroughly, then store them with anti-tarnish strips and they'll be ready to wear for months.

3. Weekly Maintenance

Use an ultrasonic cleaner and a cleaning solution that is PH-balanced and ammonia-free. This will eliminate surface dirt, oil, lotion, and perfume. If you are cleaning a rope chain or snake chain where dirt might get into the crevices, use a soft toothbrush to get into those hard to reach areas.

4. Let It Soak

Soak your chains in a pH-balanced, ammonia free jewelry solution for stubborn tarnish. If you have chain with stones, make sure that the cleaning solution you are using is gentle enough to use on the particular gemstones or pearls. Don't use the ultrasonic cleaner as the vibration may harm the stones.

5. Tarnish Be Gone

There are some wonderful polishing pads and cloths that are embedded with microabrasives that get rid of tarnish and dirt in a jiffy. Just rub the cloth over the piece and watch it polish to a clean, brilliant shine.

6. Go Eco

To clean silver, try Jean Campbell's At-Home Tarnish Busting Remedy. For stubborn spots, use plain toothpaste (no gels or whitening) and a soft toothbrush, then rinse and dry with a soft cloth. And I learned this trick from Kate Richbourg: For brass and copper pieces, use hot vinegar mixed with a few tablespoons of salt. Let soak, then rinse and dry.

7. When in Doubt

If your jewelry has become really tarnished or you have concerns about any of the gemstones used in your design, take your jewelry to a professional jeweler and ask them to clean your pieces for you. --Jane



Top: Brass chain cleaned with vinegar and salt solution. Bottom: Tarnished chain.

Jammy

Project 2

Friendly Reminder: Metal Stamped Jewelry to Help You Stay on Track with Resolutions

Well, we're 10 days into the new year--how are those resolutions coming? Are you keeping the house clean? Remembering to say kind things? Laying off the sugar and eating more green things?

I think it has been too cold in most of the country so far this year to be very disciplined about anything but keeping your toes warm. When it's in the single digits outside (or even less, whew!), no one wants to venture to the produce market to find fresh veggies, if there are any to be found, or brave the mean winds to go to the gym. It's hard to stay on track when you're just trying to stay warm.

Freezing or not, who couldn't use a little extra encouragement? A little reminder to fight the good fight and all that. When I was dealing with something last fall and trying to remind myself to stay encouraged and on track with a decision I had made, I wore a ring with a special message stamped on it to remind me of my way whenever I saw it. It served as a constant reminder of something I "knew in my knower" as my dear friend Dana says, but had trouble always *knowing*, if you know what I mean! It was part talisman and part worry stone with a hidden message just for me--and it really did work.



Spread Your Wings by Jess Italia-Lincoln



Easy Stamped Pendant by Lisa Niven Kelly

Metal stamping jewelry is a perfect way to make your own

little reminders, whether it's a ring like I had or perhaps a bracelet or pendant. You can find all kinds of blanks to make whatever kind of jewelry will work best for you or a friend and stamp it with a single word (dream, hope, wish, create, believe, leap, soar, succeed) or an entire phrase ("You can do it!" or one of those "A moment on the lips..." sayings) or Bible verse. Stamp a quote from literature or poetry, a sassy one-liner from a song or movie, or a saying that has special meaning among friends and family. Stamp in French or the foreign language of your choice for an added bit of style and mystique, such as "La vie est faite de petits bonheurs" (which means "Life is full of little pleasures").

I keep a little stash of favorite quotes saved on my

computer for just the right moment, and I have a well-worn copy of *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* on my desk. It seems I can always find a line that speaks to me and that would serve as a good reminder. Here are some of my favorites that I think would make great lines for stamped jewelry reminders related to common resolutions, attributed unless unknown.

- Things that do not change and grow will die.
- There's nothing that can't be cured by salt water: sweat, tears, or the sea.
- You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it. --Robin Williams
- You can have wings without losing your roots. --from the movie *Sweet Home Alabama*
- Everything that is real was imagined first. --from *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams
- Normal day, let me be aware of the treasure that you are. --Mary Jean Iron



Speak Your Heart bracelets by Taylor Saleem

- Details make life holy. If you want a little happiness in life, don't forget to look at the little things. --Noah Ben Shea
- Don't underestimate the value of Doing Nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering. --Winnie the Pooh, by A.A. Milne
- Keep not standing fixed and rooted. Briskly venture, briskly roam. --Goethe
- Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair. --Kahlil Gibran
- Be careful, little eyes, what you see.
- Count your blessings, not your sheep.



Sticks and Stones by Jennifer Stumpf

Stamping on jewelry allows you to create simple, subtle (if you want), everyday reminders to stay on track with your resolutions and plans for the new year. You can stamp on the inside or back of the jewelry if it's a private message just for you, or stamp a big, bold, clear message to the world so anyone who sees your stamped jewelry will know they're dealing with a determined person with their eyes on a prize!

Hopefully not all of your resolutions are about dieting and doing chores but involve fun and creativity as well!

Jammy

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