

App



The LAPIDARIAN

Maple Ridge Lapidary Club Newsletter September 2013, Vol.2, Issue 9



GOLD PANNING FIELDTRIP FOR MEMBERS

Approximately a dozen people signed up for the Gold Panning Fieldtrip to Hope on **October 5th**. The fieldtrip is hosted by Club members Mike and Jessica and lead by Walt P. Walt will be providing additional details to the participants by email. Have a great trip everyone! Take lots of photos and don't forget to share them with The Lapidarian (send by email to the Club please).

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

WORKSHOP

October 5th is also the deadline to sign up for the Pierced Copper Pendant Workshop. **RSVP** to the Club at: m.ridge_lapiclub@yahoo.ca.

The workshop will be held at the Club **starting at 9 am on Saturday October 19th**. Cost is the usual \$2 workshop fee plus the cost of the materials you use. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. There is no age limit on this class but the participant must be able to handle the saw, drill and torch safely and effectively.

MRLC HALLOWEEN PARTY

Our annual Halloween Party – for our younger (and young at heart) members will be held on Saturday October 26th starting at 4pm. There will be refreshments, activities and pumpkin decorating. Have you got your costume picked out yet? If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to the Club email (m.ridge_lapiclub@yahoo.ca) by October 12th. If you can help with activities, please contact Carol K.



REMINDERS

- MRLC Display at Maple Ridge Public Library – from October 1 – 31, 2013. If you have items for the

display and haven't delivered them to the Club, you must bring them to the Library on October 1st by 10am.

- Next General Meeting is Thursday **October 3**, 2013 at 7pm
- 2014 MRLC Rock & Gem Show Meeting Tuesday **October 8**, 2013 at 7pm.
Everyone is welcome!



Upcoming Club Shows:

RICHMOND GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY: October 5 & 6, 2013, Saturday: 10:00am – 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am – 4:00pm, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond, BC. Contact: Anita Bisset, 604-715-5608 or [E mail](#)

PENTICTON GEOLOGY & LAPIDARY CLUB: October 18 & 19, 2013, Saturday: 10:00am – 8:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am – 6:00pm, Cherry Lane Shopping Centre, 2111 Main Street, Penticton, BC. Contact: Gloria Bordass, 250-493-1027

PORT MOODY ROCK & GEM CLUB: October 26 & 27, 2013, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 5:00pm, Kyle Centre, 125 Kyle Street, Port Moody, BC. Sales/Marketplace, Displays, Demonstrations, Prize Draws, Lapidary Workshop Tour, Kids' Creative Workshop, Rock Smash, Silent Auction, Spin 'n Win, Grab Bags, Food & Beverages. Admission by donation. Contact: Rose Kapp, 604-941-3023, or [E mail](#)

SURREY ROCKHOUND CLUB: October 26 & 27, 2013, 10:00am - 5:00pm, Sullivan Hall, 6306 152 St., Surrey, BC. Demonstrations, Displays, Dealers, Door Prizes, Kids Stuff, Jewelry, Used Lapidary Equipment for sale & much more. For more information call 604-599-6938, or [E mail](#)

VERNON LAPIDARY & MINERAL CLUB: November 1 & 2, 2013, Village Green Mall, Vernon, BC. Contact: Pat O'Brien, 250-545-1274 or [E mail](#)

DELTA ROCKHOUND GEM & MINERAL CLUB: November 2 & 3, 2013, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 5:00pm, South Delta Recreation Centre, 1720 - 56th Street, Tsawwassen, BC. Door prizes; rock auctions for children and adults; grab bags; demonstrations; dealers; mineral, rock and gem displays; dealers Contact: Mary Cool, 604-943-5518, or [E mail](#)



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: Crinoid Fossils** - Chilliwack Area, October 6, 2013 (Sunday), 9:00 AM. Meet at Burger King, Cottonwood Mall, Chilliwack. Bring a rock hammer, bucket, pry bar, digging tools, waterproof boots to wade the creek, gloves. Car (full tank of gas). Bring food, water, back pack, insect repellent. Be sure to check with the WagonMaster BEFORE you go!! Bob and De Morgan 604-599-6938

MRLC Members - Do you have summer photos of your rock hounding (or rock candy hunting) trip that you'd like to share? Please send a jpeg or tiff to the Club email and your photo may be highlighted in the newsletter.

Birthstone of the Month: Sapphire

A maiden born when September leaves
Are rustling in September's breeze,
A [sapphire](#) on her brow should bind
`Twill cure diseases of the mind.

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 in the 15th-20th century the September stone was [chrysolite](#). In the US [sapphire](#) is now the choice. Britain includes [lapis lazuli](#) with sapphire in 2013 while the Hindu culture lists [zircon](#) as the stone of choice. Which of these beautiful stones do you wear as your birthstone?



SAPPHIRE
SAPPHIRE

PROJECT

This month's first project from Jewelry Making Daily (September 2, 2013) looks at copper solder paste. The second project, also from Jewelry Making Daily (September 16, 2013) presents an interesting way to make your own druzy.

Lessons Learned: Soldering with Copper Solder Paste

So I got a delicious package of copper, brass, and silver patterned wire from Cool Tools a few weeks ago, and I've been looking at it, swooning over it, and playing with it every chance I've had since then. I mentioned awhile back that it had launched me into a ring-making frenzy; it also prompted me to (finally) try out the copper solder paste I bought in Tucson way back in February.

I'd never used copper solder before, and I'd never used paste solder before--so it was a learning period all around. I learned to solder with Lexi using silver wire solder, and being the big fan of silver that I am, I've never needed to solder copper before now. But all of those cool patterned copper and brass wires begged to be made into rings, rings, and more rings, so off I went. I had no idea how different soldering copper would be. But first . . .

What is Solder?

Basically, solder is a material used to join two or more metal pieces (or two ends of one piece) together. Whether you use silver or copper solder, wire or paste, hard or medium or soft--all types of solder are alloys, and alloys are simply a blend or mixture of two or more metals. So solder is a metal alloy, sometimes with the addition of a binder (as in solder paste) and/or flux.

If solder is just basically an alloy, what makes metal solder different from, well, just metal? The binder and the flux, for one thing, but there's more than that. Here's a very basic but important point to remember: The right solder for a project is an alloy that melts at a lower temperature than the metal(s) being soldered.

That makes sense, right? Because if it didn't, the metal(s) would melt, too, and you'd end up with a molten blob instead of jewelry (which is still possible, but let's hope we avoid it). Solder must also be able to adhere to the metal(s) being joined, so the metals in the solder have to be compatible in that sense with the metals you're soldering. For example, stainless steel is one metal that doesn't play so well with the others and is difficult to solder.



Trying to solder this domed filigree heart was one of the hardest things I've ever tried to do! Too few points of contact plus solder that flows so fast plus fine meltable wires equals argh!



Soldering Copper with Copper Solder Paste

I think I would have had more early success at soldering with copper solder paste if I'd done a little more technical research about what copper solder paste actually *is*. In hindsight, thanks to some online research, lots of experiments, and a quick consultation about copper paste solder with *Simple Soldering* author and jewelry-making guru Kate Richbourg, here are some of my lessons learned.

As I said, I'd never used paste solder before, so it took a little trial and error to get the hang of it. In particular, I had to figure out how to use just enough--and by enough, I mean not too much. It takes less than I expected, and when I used the needle-like tips on the syringe, it was much easier to control the amount dispensed and to get a very fine line of solder.

And, as I said above, I'd never used copper solder before, either--wire or paste--so my experiments with it led to some good discoveries and reminders of things I'd already heard and learned about it. Most importantly, copper solder--at least this particular one--is not going to look like copper* when you're done. It will look less bright and shiny and silvery and *different* than if you'd used silver solder, and it's a fraction of the cost--both good reasons to use it, but know that it won't be copper colored. Copper solder paste contains mostly copper (about 95%) and some phosphorus** but also a bit of silver, too.

That little bit of silver is a small but mighty fighter, trust me; it will manage to get to the surface of all the copper in the solder and keep the seam from looking like copper (at least with the copper solder paste that I used). It won't be as obvious as if you'd used silver solder, but it will be there. Kate says she usually files away most of the join so the shiny silver part isn't very obvious. She uses a tapered barrel bur in her flex shaft to remove the excess solder and then refines the metal with finer files to remove the marks from the bur.

*My research tells me that there are "color match" copper solders available, so I'm ordering a selection of those and will be putting them to the test--watch this space!

**Phosphorus is the glowing element from which we get the term phosphorescence; it's also a flammable part of matches. This could explain why my copper solder paste literally, though momentarily, ignited (or maybe it was just the binder, or both). Remember to wear eye protection, avoid loose clothing, have proper ventilation, and keep a fire extinguisher on hand anytime you're working with a torch.

To help you learn or perfect your soldering skills, we've packaged several of our [most popular and informative expert soldering resources together in a must-have soldering bundle](#) at a can't-miss price. The bundle includes two DVDs, two eBooks, and a print book, all about soldering, created by experts. There is a limited quantity of our special soldering bundles available so don't delay!

Jammy



Masterful Kate removes visible solder with a tapered barrel bur in a flex shaft.

Trash to Treasure: Two Ways to Use Broken Gemstones and Beads in Fresh Jewelry Designs

My studio "spring cleaning" (I know, it's September . . .) continued over last weekend and part of this week, and of course, I'm finding all kinds of fun things I forgot I had.

It's also uncovering plenty of things I probably shouldn't have--you know how that is, UFOs (unfinished objects) that you'll probably never finish or that you love too much to toss but you don't know *how* you should finish them, or things that are broken or missing a part. One such thing I've found is a little bag of broken gemstone beads. They're gemstones, after all; how could I just throw them away? I hardly ever do any stringing anymore, but I've had this little bag saved for a couple of years now, knowing (hoping) that I'd find a good way to use the pieces in jewelry designs.

But I haven't found a way. I've found two!



Broken Gems as Cabochons

All bezel projects by Stephanie Gard Buss.

Somewhere in the past year or so I heard the tip of using broken gemstone beads as cabochons. This works best for larger beads, of course, when they crack so that you have a good half-bead left. It's pretty much a cabochon shape at that point anyway, it just has a rough, probably less-flat back than you'd likely find on an intentionally cut cab.

If you have the tools and equipment, you can grind and sand the back to be flat enough to set the half-bead in a bezel. Then just set it in a bezel that you've bought or made like you would set any other cabochon. Voila! Trash to treasure, complete with an interesting story.

Broken Gems as Faux Drusy

We have Nunn Design Innovation Team designer Stephanie Gard Buss to thank for the idea of using broken gemstone beads and chips set in a bezel of resin to create the look of faux drusy (aka drusy) or even a chunk of crystal-covered gem rough. I love how easy it is to do--practically foolproof.

Stephanie broke gem pieces by securing them in a bag and pounding them with a hammer; you can do the same, if you don't have a stash of broken gem beads already. Topaz and quartz gems like amethyst, citrine, and smoky quartz are ideal for this technique because they're inexpensive and readily available in lesser qualities (that you might be willing to break up!), even at large craft stores that don't specialize in jewelry-making supplies. Here's how she made a faux drusy pendant.





Faux Drusy Cabochon Bezel

Broken stones + resin = a drusy-like cabochon!

By Stephanie Gard Buss

For a long time, I haven't known what to do with stone beads that break. It seems such a shame to throw them out--yet, what could I do with them? When I saw my team member Karen McGovern's gorgeous bracelet in *Bead Trends*, my wheels started turning. Then I started seeing drusy pendants everywhere, and thought, "Maybe I could use my broken stones to make that."

A drusy (or druzy) stone has a coating of fine crystals that look like a layer of glitter. They can appear when a stone like a geode is cracked open.

A lot of the drusy stones I've come across look

simply like a cool rough-cut stone, and the sparkle is very minimal. (Editor's note: The sparkle is necessary for it to be considered a true drusy stone, however.)

To make a faux drusy, I've used relatively soft stones that you can smash with a hammer.

Materials:

resin and mixing cups
colorant (optional)
Nunn Design bezel
damaged gemstones or gem beads
plastic zipper bag
hammer
tweezers
mica powder (optional)
file

Steps:



1. Mix your resin well and set aside. Have extra cups available if you want to use a colorant or add mica to your resin (or both!).

2. Place the stones in a zipper bag and smash with a hammer. I kept the colors separated; you can do that or mix them.



3. If you want to use a colorant, mix your clear resin with the colorant in another cup. I happened to have a bezel that I had already half-filled with a bright blue colored resin.

(Tip: use a bowl or tray of rice when gluing or curing resin in uneven bezels to allow it to sit flat.)

I also mixed mica powder in with resin in a separate cup to add a little color and shine. Mica is, after all, rock, and it gives a lovely pearlescent shine.



4. Pour resin into your bezel base, filling only about a third. Using tweezers, place your crushed stone pieces into the resin. At this point, if your stone is really light, you may decide you want to add a colorant as the stone seems to disappear into the resin. That's ok. You can stir it all (stone, resin, and mica or colorant) together in the cup and scrape it back into the bezel.



5. When you have the look that you want, fill with more resin if needed. If you want to add a bit of sparkle, now is the time to sprinkle on a bit of glitter (glass glitter or fine glitter). Put a little on a cotton swab and tap gently with your finger for best control. You could use a pearlescent mica powder as well. If it's too much, all is not lost. Scrape it all out into a resin cup again, mix it around until the glitter is more subtle and put it back into the bezel. Have several bezels ready so you can play around with different colors.



6. When you like it, set aside to cure for the recommended time for your resin. You may want to wipe around the outside of the bezel to make sure there's nothing stuck to it.

7. When they are cured, and this is **VERY IMPORTANT**, file off any sharp points. Don't slice your finger open like I did!

Such a fun and thrifty project! I love finding ways to use things that I might throw away otherwise or leftover pieces from my stash.

Browse our Fall Sale to find [hundreds of great eProjects](#) featuring gemstones, bezels, resin, and great ways to use up some of your stash! You can see some of my favorite new ones below, including how to make glasses using slices of tourmaline!

Jammy



Maple Ridge Lapidary Club

23750 Fern Crescent
Maple Ridge BC, V4R 2S9
Website: <http://www.mrlclub.com>
Email: m.ridge_lapclub@yahoo.ca
Phone: 604-466-4938