



THE NUGGET



Holiday Party

The Club held our pot-luck holiday party on December 16th and a good time was had by all!



Club Rockhound of the Year

Austin Meersond was unanimously chosen to be the Club's CROY for 2023 at the December board meeting of the Nassau Mineral Club. Austin joined the NMC in January and is one of our newest and youngest members. Early curiosity led him to study the history of ancient glass beads and their artifacts, including their various chemical compositions and manufacture. Mastering the use of present-day lapidary machinery followed as an outcome of his interests in glass, minerals, and lapidary techniques.

Austin's mechanical engineering background, depth of skills, knowledge and generous nature has led to his teaching new members how to safely use the Club's rock/trim saws and grinding machines. In addition, members regularly seek him out for assistance related to protocols, mineral identification, or lap techniques which he unflinchingly takes time to address. His dedication as a rockhound mentor is evident.

Certainly, Austin Meersond exemplifies the principle, "Each one, teach one" on a day-to-day basis. Nassau Mineral Club is proud to have Austin as our Club Rockhound of the Year 2023.

Cabochon Refresher

Alice has offered to do small group instruction in basic cabochon techniques including things like: design, thickness and polishing. Each class is limited to 5 at a time. Sign up to reserve your spot.

The Club would also like to thank Alice for writing up a new set of instructions for making cabochons, which will be distributed during the refresher.

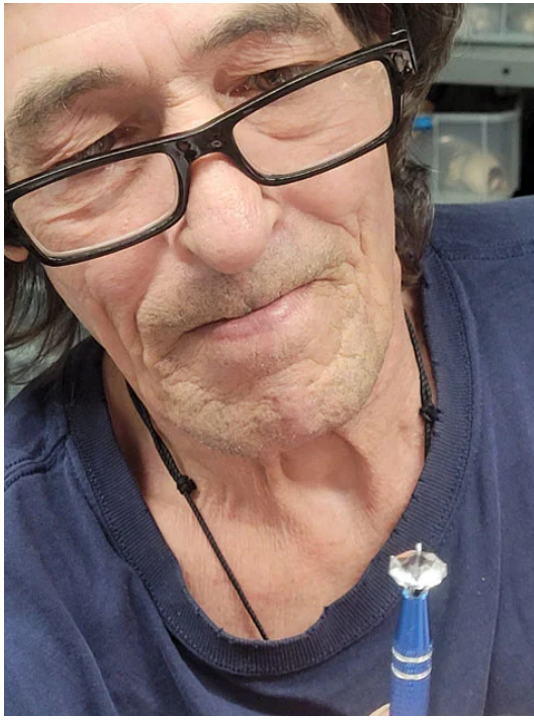
Stained Glass Workshop

Diane taught a stained glass workshop over several weeks in November and December. The pieces made by members included gnomes, lighthouses, butterflies, starfish and snails.



Faceting Update

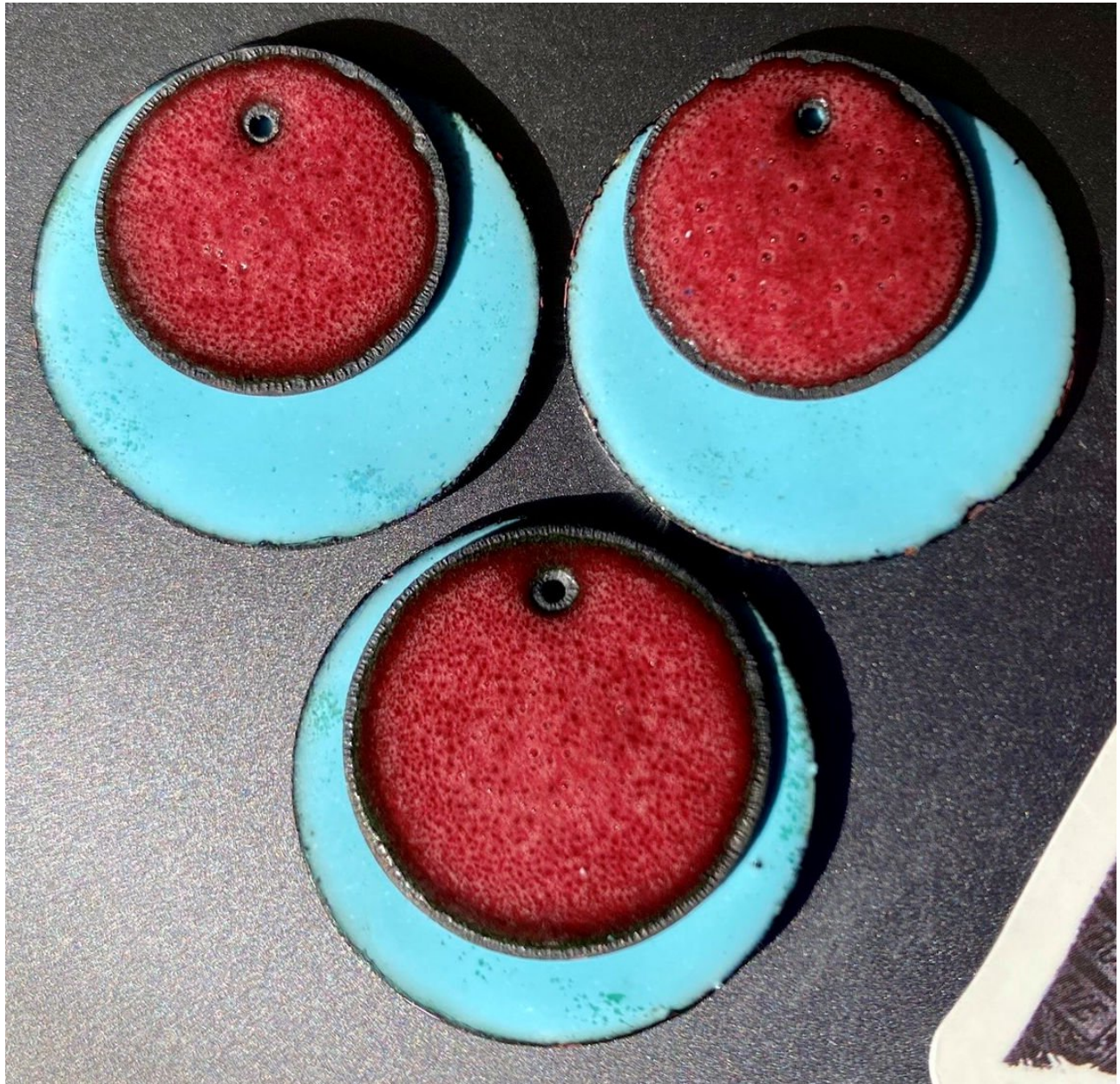
Congratulations to Rick, who completed his first faceted stone recently. The stone on the right was faceted by Cris and is a yttrium alumina garnet, also known as YAG.



Enameling Review

Maureen wrote up an account of her experience doing enameling at the club...

I practiced enameling recently, that was a lot of fun. I used the drill press to make the circles from 24g copper sheet, and Elaine helped me along the way. I sprayed hairspray and sifted enamel then fired the pieces in the kiln, leaving the edges raw. I learned about different textures achieved while firing, and how to speckle from sifting another color on top of the base layer. I made sterling silver ear wires to make the pieces into earrings and look forward to trying torch fired enameling soon.



Equipment for Sale

There are a few slab saws and faceting machines for sale. If interested, please email Diane at NassauMineralClub@gmail.com.

Please Welcome New Members

Ryanne Barber

Kerry McKenna

Lisa O'Connor

NMC Officers 2023

PRESIDENTS: Diane Angus and Dennis Kirchner

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: Sue Goldman

SECRETARY: Jen McAndrews

TREASURER: Elaine Grayson

LAPIDARY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: Jim Sisti

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON: Rose Marie White

EVENTS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS: Elise Gad and Cris Martins

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Cris Martins

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Nassau Mineral Club

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