

# Harvey Oaks JEWELER

*...the home of priceless beauty*

134 South Front Street • Fremont, Ohio 43420 • 419-332-0481

OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2011

From the desk of Gerry Gonya...Harvey Oaks Manufacturing Jeweler

**W**ell, I have to ask – how was YOUR summer? I've asked that question many times over the last several weeks and I have gotten many different responses. "Too hot, too wet, too short", etc. For me it was the same response several of my customers gave – too short. We all look at things that we want to do and get done, but we have a tendency to say "I'll do that next week". After all we've got the whole summer. Before we know it summer is winding down and we are still faced with the same question, "Where did this summer go"? Maybe if we were more disciplined and wrote down our priorities of what needs done and stick to it, we would be all set. But what would summer be if we didn't have that "job jar" still overflowing by mid September? Oh, well, there is always next summer.

Every once in a while I will come across an older style ring or pendant during an appraisal that looks like a garnet with deep rich color. But something doesn't look right and after further examination of the gemstone we find out that is a garnet/glass doublet. This was very common in the 50's and 60's where the labs took a top section of garnet (known as the crown) and cemented it to a piece of glass with the same color as the top mineral. With the aid of the microscope and looking down through the table you might find certain inclusions that were typical of garnet. But as you looked through the stone with the microscope you would begin to see spherical bubbles, perfectly round in shape deeper in the stone. If you immersed this stone in a specific gravity fluid and looked at a cross section through the scope you would see the separation plan between the two substances, the top would still be red (garnet), but the bottom portion basically colorless (glass). Once in a while you could even see the colored glue that was used; thus the name of garnet/glass doublet.

Well I have not heard of anything lately that this process was still being used until I came across an article in a issue of *Gems & Gemology* explaining about some large gemstones that were sent to the Dubai Gemstone Laboratory for identification purposes. The individual that sent these to the gemstone laboratory simply mentioned that these "beautiful emeralds" were being offered for sale. The process of trying to ID these gemstones began with various tests and examinations. Several of the tests showed favorable results that these could be fine emeralds containing two phase inclusions, fingerprint type inclusions, and growth tubes, but no presence of chromium (a substance that gives green gemstones their green color). This prompted further testing. It was at this time that it was proven these gemstones were not emeralds, but rather beryl triplets – green beryl for the crown cemented to green glass for the pavilion using a green type of cement. Remember our earlier discussion about garnet/glass doublets done during the 50's and 60's? Well here is an example of a very similar process still being done with great success. I can't imagine the disappointment of the prospective buyer when he found out what he was actually buying. This is a good reason to deal with someone you know and trust. Now you are probably asking your self "what is green beryl"? You may not have heard of it but it is actually a beautiful gemstone. To put it in an easy to understand formula, aquamarine and emerald are two of the more prominent members of the beryl family. When beryl crystallizes and vanadium, or chromium, is present

– emerald is the result. When beryl crystallizes with iron present, aquamarine is the outcome. When beryl crystallizes and neither vanadium/chromium, or iron, is the dominate factor, we get a beautiful blend of the two resulting in what is known as green beryl. You owe it to yourself to look at several pieces we have in the store. And no, our green beryl are not doublets

Have you ever wondered how can a jeweler (who has had the gemological training needed to identify gemstones) tell the difference between natural gemstones and synthetic gemstones? It is a question I seem to be asked on a daily basis "is this stone from grandmas ring real"? How can you tell?

I for one would be the first to admit that I cannot identify every stone that is on the market or whether it is synthetic or not. There are just too many synthetics and simulants in the market today to be sure of each one. Another reason is the needed specialized equipment that only a high tech lab can afford. But over the years of training and the numerous courses one must take, there are certain characteristics that I look for. For instance garnet will have rutile like inclusions that intersect at an angle greater than 90°, ruby and sapphire will have fingerprint type inclusions, and emerald will show 2 and 3 phase inclusions just to name a few. Synthetics on the other hand may have curved striae lines/bands that would indicate these were grown by a process known as flame fusion. We may see wispy, veil like, inclusions that would indicate flux grown synthetics. Another way of growing a synthetic is by a process known as hydrothermal and a typical type inclusion known as "nail-head" spicule can be seen in this type of grown synthetic. The name is derived from the shape of the inclusion that looks like a finishing nail and is actually a void in the material caused by the deposit of a very small crystal or platelet. As the larger crystal continues to grow this platelet acts like a shield in the growing crystal material similar to what a block would do when placed in a moving stream of water. Eventually the growing crystal comes back together but leaves this tapered void looking like a nail. Thus, the name "nail-head" spicule. Keep in mind you cannot see these types of identifying characteristics without the use of high magnification and knowing what to look for.

Birthstones for the final quarter of 2011 (October, November, and December)

## OCTOBER

Opals happen to be one of those birthstones that should be worn with caution, especially in a ring. No it isn't because of the old "wives tail" that said one shouldn't wear opal unless it is your birthstone or misfortunes will be bestowed upon the wearer. Rather, it is because opal is a fragile gemstone and can easily chip or break. If opal is in a pendant or earrings, it is subjected to much less abuse than in a ring. Oh, by the way, one of Henry the VIII's wives dispelled that old wives tail when she had her entire court wear opals (but no one recorded what happened to her).

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Another choice for October is pink tourmaline, which is much more durable than opal and it is a faceted gemstone which allows the wearer a greater choice in settings for rings, pendants, and earrings. Many opals show flashes of pinks and reds which fit in with the color of pink tourmaline.

## NOVEMBER

Topaz is the choice for November birthdays. With its sherry color and sometimes a tinge of pink showing, the color is alluring. Topaz still remains a relatively hard gemstone to find especially in the finer hues and thus commanding a higher price per carat than one might expect. Due to the availability and price per carat, many times citrine (quartz) is used for November's birthstone. A common practice is to use the very pale to colorless natural topaz and heat treat it to varying shades of blue creating a beautiful looking gemstone for a very reasonable price.

## DECEMBER

Like October's birthstone choices, December also offers two different gemstones to use in jewelry. The long standing gemstone is blue zircon, not to be confused with the colored variety of the synthetic cubic zirconia. That deep bluish/green color of blue zircon reminds me of thick ice over a frozen lake. Blue zircon is a gemstone that doesn't do well in rings that are worn hard – it has a tendency to easily abrade or scratch.

The other choice for December birthdays is tanzanite with its bluish/purple color. Fine, intense color tanzanite still commands a good price especially in the 1.00 to 2.00 carat sizes. Like blue zircon tanzanite is a softer gemstone and would best be worn with care especially in rings.

## The next 3 months will be busy at Harvey Oaks Jeweler with our upcoming events listed below.

Saturday October 29th Harvey Oaks Jeweler will be hosting a COIN SHOW from 9:30AM till 3:00PM. You can have your coins and paper money appraised by a member of the Numismatic Coin Dealers Association and Tim will also give you a firm offer if you wish to sell them. This has been a semi-annual event at Harvey Oaks Jeweler and always draws a good crowd. If you have a large number of coins we will

be happy to make an appointment for you Friday October 28th in the afternoon or whatever we can arrange for you on Saturday.

Personality Bead Show will be Friday (10AM till 8PM) and Saturday (10AM till 5PM) October 4th and 5th. There are so many different styles and ideas expressed with these beads that I am sure it will be hard to choose. What a great way to start your Holiday Shopping early especially with the specials offered that weekend on our beads and bracelets.

## Lady's Night

This year we have scheduled our special night for you gals on Wednesday November 30th from 5:30 to 8:30PM. We will pamper all you ladies with a great selection of hors d'oeuvres and beverages while you browse and shop till your heart's content! We will also help you fill out that special "Wish List". More information will be sent to you by post card from our mailing list. So if you, or someone you know, is not getting our newsletter, please call us at 419-332-0481 and we will add your name to be sure you're invited. If you feel like bringing a friend to help, by all means do so. Almost forgot to mention that there will be several great door prizes awarded.

## Men's Night

Scheduled for Wednesday December 14th from 5:30 to 8:30PM will give those guys a chance to look over the "Wish List" that their ladies filled out prior to this event. This night also offers the guys a chance to pick out something they might want and it will be so duly noted. Oh and guys be sure to bring your appetites that evening, you won't be disappointed. We will also be sending reminder post cards to the guys prior to that evening.

Well once again I got a little carried away in writing this newsletter, and the clock on my computer shows almost 12 bells. Hard to believe we are heading into the last 3 months of 2011 and what lies ahead is anyone's guess. I hope this newsletter finds all of you in good health and spirits and ready to move forward each and every day. Have a very Blessed Holiday Season from all of us at Harvey Oaks Jeweler. If you have any questions or comments please call us at 419-332-0481. You can also visit us on our website at "harveyoaksjeweler.com"

Gerry