

December 2023



OCMS SHALE MAIL



**Welcome to an in-person meeting
Friday Dec 8th, 2023 at 6:30 pm!**

See you at: 81 Laroe Rd Chester, NY (Town of Chester Recreation Senior Center), (From KINGS HWY, Turn on Laroe Rd by the UPS office building)

[CLICK FOR MAP](#)

2023 CALENDAR

Dec 8. - Christmas Party 2023



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Mailing Address:

254 Rt. 17K, Suite 204, Newburgh, NY 12550-8300

Presidents message & Minutes

By: Mike Tedford

President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving and please come join us indoors at The Chester Senior Center this Friday, December 8, 2023, at 6:30 PM for our annual holiday pot luck dinner, auction/raffle and monthly business meeting.

The large auction/raffle with 80 specimens and all members are welcome to bring in any extra specimens, books or journals, etc. that they wish to donate and share. While you are perusing the auction items, you can enjoy the tales and camaraderie of your society members and the pot luck dinner.

Pot luck dinner. OCMSNY will provide a 6 foot hero and hot dishes such as pizza and chicken Parmesan. Members bring in a prepared dish of their choice to share such as salad, veggies, appetizer, desserts, or beverages for us to share and enjoy together. The pot luck aspects of our previous holiday meeting and September BBQ have worked out deliciously.

Our monthly business meeting will include election of 2024 officers and some planning for the June 1-2 annual mineral show, now just 6 months away! Please give some thought to joining the ranks of our officers to help in the tasks needed to function throughout the year. This is your club and we welcome your assistance in any and all aspects.

Thank you.. We are thankful for the contributions and shared experiences of our society membership and officers. Heartfelt wishes for peace

Minutes

OCMSNY November 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

OCMSNY attendance sheets were completed. Attendance 28. Name tags were issued at this meeting. Meeting refreshments included: Dunkin Donuts coffee, doughnuts, cookies, brownies, crackers and cheese and more. The raffle table included 25 specimens. OCMSNY president Mike Tedford called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 PM,

welcoming the attendees. Veterans Day and our veteran members including Al Strohl, Mark Kucera, John Pacut and Doc Bayne were acknowledged. Thank you for your service. Members faced the flag and pledged allegiance, Dr Tedford mentioned that OCMSNY members are also members of the Eastern and American federations. Most members present confirmed they are receiving the Shale Mail- by email. Several print copies were available at the meeting for review. Members were reminded to keep their email addresses and contact info up to date.

The business meeting portion was then deferred until the after the live presentation by Ted Johnson on the Minerals and Mines of Sweden. He gave us an impressive tour of Sweden with maps and photos of the mines and minerals. He also described the history of the mines including the more recent mining of rare earth minerals. Dr Tedford mentioned that we are grateful for Ted Johnsons sharing his many world rockhounding adventures over the years.

Further business meeting discussions included acceptance of the Treasurers report, October meeting minutes. Further discussions included our mineral show: need to get dates and pamphlets out earlier to vendors and other shows, establish dates etc with Museum Village, keep current on the septic system at Museum Village, consider auctions and raffles and membership cart at the show, encourage preregistration of vendors and vendor outreach to fill more vendor locations, Vendor registration on site would be handled out of the line of preregistrants. An extra fee for not preregistering was established. The 25 item raffle was very popular, adding to members' collections. Various potential society activities and donations were discussed including field trips, bus trips, scholarships, donations to Museum Village, Mindat...

The club camaraderie continued until approximately 900pm.



IT'S PARTY TIME!



We all want to see you at this very special meeting so bring a dish to add to our pot luck supper.

Come for a fun time, visit with your fellow OCMS members, and just enjoy the biggest social event of the year!



Chinese Auction will be on the menu again this year! Don't forget to buy your tickets at the meeting! Win your favorite specimens!

**We look forward to seeing
you all there!**

**Merry Christmas
Everyone!**

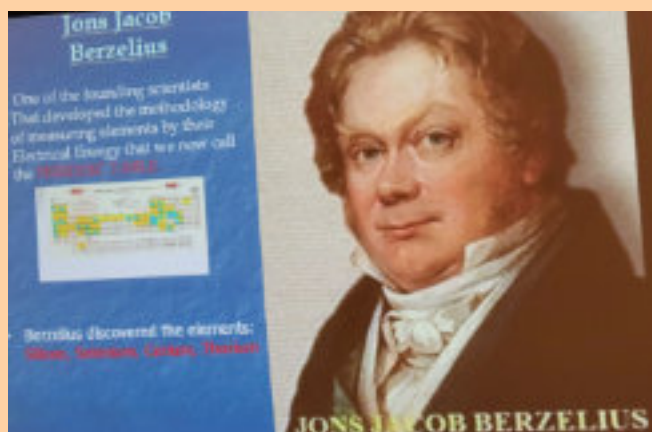


Classic Mines and Minerals of Sweden !

By John Pacut



The beginning of the 20th century Sweden had 250 plus mines. Now there are only a dozen or so active mines. At its peak they produced 3 kilo tonnes of copper in 1650. Copper was needed all over Europe for making weapons and bronze. A type of iron called Osmund was made from pig iron and later on



they shifted to bar iron. This was shipped all over especially to Germany and Poland. The Kiruna mine is still very active. Ten of the most productive mines are located in the Northern Lapland Counties. They were also the second biggest producer behind Finland for gold. Secondary minerals of copper like

malachite can also be found at several locations. The Nordarch mine was a big producer for manganese which is crucial for making steel. John Jacobs developed the periodic table and by himself discovered four different elements. The Veratask mine is noted for beryllium, blue tourmalines, magnetite, manganese, borites, lead, zinc, gold and silver. Falun mine for copper.

Ted mentioned his interest for Swedish minerals stems from the fact that he has lineage through his grandfather who lived in a small town there. Several mines in the arctic region like the iron mine Kiruna are underground where the weather is ideal. Many other minerals can be found like goethite, sphalerite, calcite, stilbite, and various fluorescent minerals. Also, there are locations for very fine example of diopside, hornblende, apatite. The Langban mine is known for iron, magnetite, goethite, hematite, wavellite, and several phosphate minerals. There are several pegmatite locations where you can find very purple lepidolite, green and pink tourmalines, rubellite and even meteorites.

His presentation was illustrated with numerous beautiful slides depicting all these minerals and more. We would like to take a moment to extend our gratitude to Ted for another wonderful lecture. [Check out this link for more.](#)



Christmas Is Coming!

With Christmas right around the corner. I thought I would add this to the newsletter for all those who may wish to make Christmas gifts for loved ones this year.

Wire wrapped settings require few materials and tools and use no heat or glue. They are so versatile that once you have the basics down you can create a beautiful setting for anything from a cabochon to a seashell.

Step 1: What You Need:

Wire:

You can use any kind of nontoxic metal wire, though I prefer to buy jewelry grade wire online. Wire Sculpture and Rio Grande are excellent sources. If you're just beginning I recommend copper or bronze. They're inexpensive and look great with polish or patina. To get started buy at least 5-10 feet of 21 or 22 gauge dead soft SQUARE wire and 5 feet of 22 gauge dead soft HALF ROUND wire. That's it, assuming you have something to wrap. Wrapping a round or oval cabochon in the 30 - 40 mm range will be easiest.

Tools:

Tools are very important. I used cheap jewelry pliers (~\$10) for a while, but once I was sure I would stay with wire wrapping, I got good ones (~\$50). It made a huge difference, especially in how tired my hands would get. If you do this, hang on to your cheap tools - there's always a use pliers you won't worry about. The basic tools you will need to get started are:

Flat nose pliers

Round nose pliers

Wire cutters

Marker

Small round mandrel, bail pliers or pen

Ruler

Later you can add chain nose pliers, jewelry files, bail making pliers and more. I treat myself to a new high-quality tool every so often.

Step 2: Cutting Wire

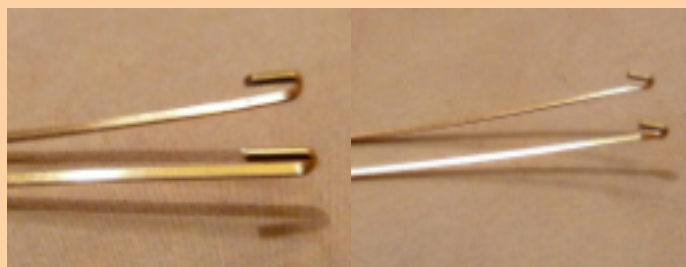
For a basic cab wire wrap, this is how I like to measure and cut the wire:

First, unroll some of the square wire and smooth it with your fingers to straighten it. It doesn't need to be very even, but don't make any kinks in the wire. Next take your cabochon and stand it up at the end of the wire. Note the spot where the cab is touching the wire end and roll the cab along the wire like a wheel until the same spot touches again. Where the cab stops is the circumference of the setting. From this point you need to add 12" - 14" of wire to make the bail and rosettes, depending on how tall you want the bail. With inexpensive metals, better to go too long - you can always cut off the excess later. When you have this length figured out, use your wire cutters and make a perpendicular cut. Then use this first piece of wire to measure a second length off the spool and cut that. Repeat until you've cut 4 pieces of square wire.

Next, cut 3 pieces of 1" half round wire and 1 piece of 3" half round wire.

Step 3: Making Bundles

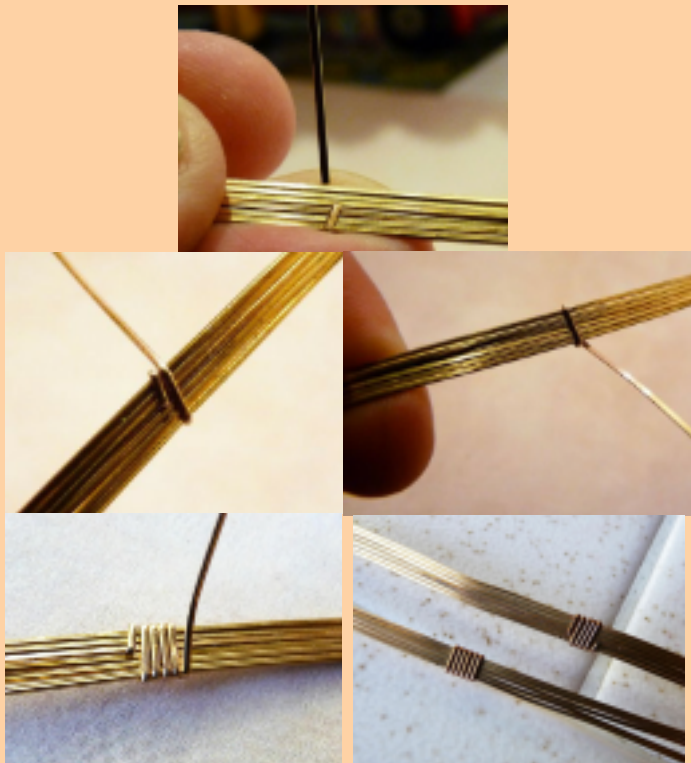
The object here is to make a flat strip held



together at three points that will wrap tightly around your cab. The short pieces of 1/2 round wire will hold the square wires together. Pick up one piece of 1/2 round wire and use the flat nose pliers to bend 3-4 mm of the top over. Then angle the bend slightly. Make sure the flat side of the wire is on the inside surface. This will fit neatly around the square wire.

Christmas Is Coming! -Cont.

Step 4: Making Wraps



Next hold the square wires together side-by-side. You may need to wiggle them around a little to get them to line up. Then hook the bend of the 1/2 round wire over one edge as shown.

Give a gentle squeeze with the flat nose pliers to secure. (When wrapping, the front of the wraps should be 90 degrees to the bundle wires. The back of the wraps are usually angled.)

Now hold the square wire bundle with the flat nose pliers very close to where you will wrap the short pieces around. Start winding the 1/2 round wire around the bundle, but stop every time you make a turn and give the wires a gentle squeeze with the flat nose pliers. Expect to be moving the bundle and the pliers around a lot, changing hands when you need to.

Wrap the 1/2 round wire around the bundle this way 4 times and end on the back of the bundle. Cut the excess 1/2 round wire so that it overlaps the back 3 – 4mm.

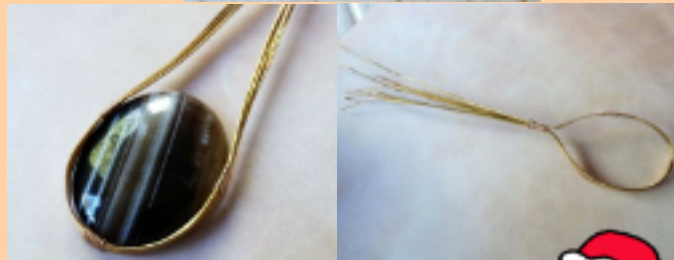
Step 5: Prepare the Bezel

Take the object you're wire wrapping and hold it on the wrap you just made, standing up. Start rolling it to one side and when you get halfway up one side of the cab, mark the wire bundle. This is where the first side wrap will go. Measure from this mark to the center of the wraps. Measure that distance from the center of the wraps to the other side of the bundle and mark that point. This is where the second side wrap will go.

Following the previous directions, make a set of 4 wraps beginning at each of the side marks. Remember to always start and finish on the bundle back.

Now you should have a bundle of square wires with three sets of wraps.

Step 6: Secure the Stone (or Whatever You're Wrapping)



Christmas Is Coming! -Cont.

Find an object slightly smaller than your cab to use as a mandrel. (Unless you have a mandrel.) I find pill bottles are often perfect.

Then hold your wire bundle against the mandrel by pressing your thumb on the center wrap. Keep the bundle perpendicular to the mandrel and gently bend the sides around until they touch. Now take the bundle off the mandrel and try it around your cab. Use your fingers to adjust the fit. The center wrap should be exactly in the center of the cab around the bottom.

Press the wires around the cab until they meet at the top. A little clearance is fine. Also, you may need to bend the wires away from each other to keep them from getting too tangled, but try to make the ends all go straight up.

Get the piece of 3" half round wire and put a small bend in the top, but don't angle it. Hook the bend around the back of the bezel and give a very gentle squeeze with your pliers to secure. Hold the top wires together in your fingers and use your other hand to wind the half round up around them. Wind at least 5 times (more, if you want) and end at the back. Leaving a few extra millimeters, cut the excess wire. Use round nose pliers to bend and tuck wire end into the back strands.

7: Set the Stone



Now you have a basic wire bezel. Lay your cab flat on the table and set the bezel around it. To keep the cab in the setting you will need to pull the outermost wires over it on the front and back. I like to do this by separating the wires out with my fingers and tightening them with round nose pliers as follows:

1) There are four wire sections between the wraps. Using a finger, pull the center-most wire a few millimeters toward the center. Do this with all 4

sections on the front.

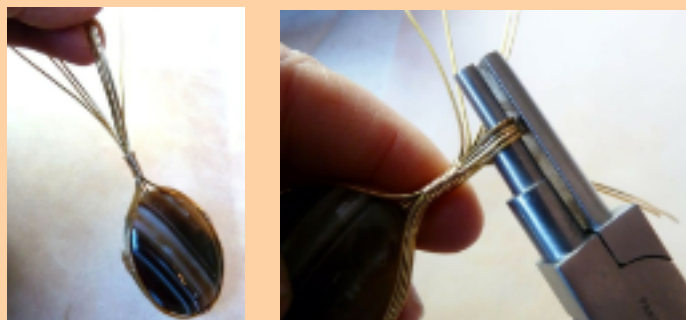
2) Turn over and repeat with the back wires. Now your cab should be held in loosely.

3) To tighten the wires, hold your setting in one hand and round nose pliers in the other. Put your pliers on either side of the pulled wire in one lower front section and give a small twist. Do the exact, but opposite movement on the wire next to it. Repeat with the top wires.

4) Do the same thing to the pulled out wires on the back, but make the twists more extreme.

Your cab should now be securely in its bezel.

Step 8: Make a Bail

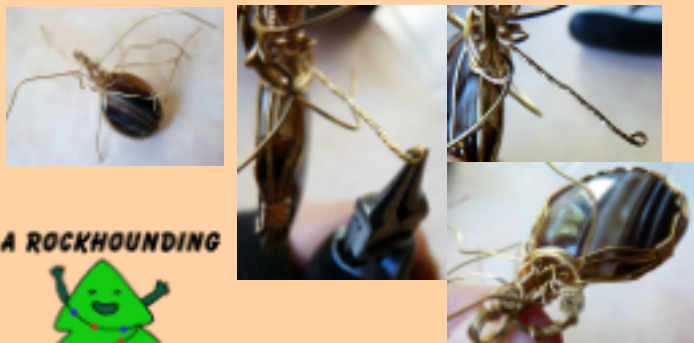


The bail is the part that hangs from the chain. You can make it whatever size you want. I have bail making pliers with different sizes, but you can use any strong object like a pen or a fat knitting needle.

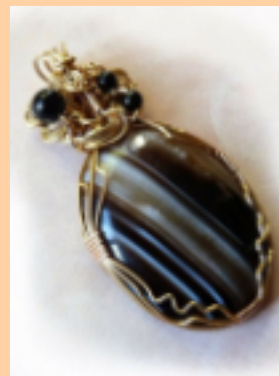
First, separate out the top wires with your fingers until you find the 4 front most wires. These will make the bail. Gently bend the back wires off to the sides. Get your pen (or mandrel or other object) and put it behind the bail wires, right above the joined part. Now bend the wires back over the pen. Wires should not overlap. Keeping the mandrel in place, take one of the back wires and wind it around the bail wires and the stem to secure the bail wires. Leave the pen/mandrel in the bail until the wires are completely finished.

Christmas Is Coming! -Cont.

Step 9: Finish the Loose Wires



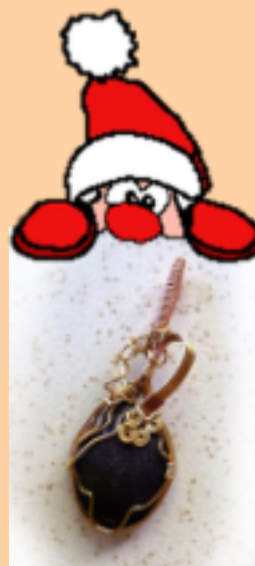
with loops or tuck into the bezel.



Step 10: All Done

When you're done, simply trim off the extra wire (save it for other projects) and tuck any loose ends under. Feel the pendant with your fingers for rough spots and then rub the front and back on a piece of fabric. If you find any sharp spots or wires that catch; file, trim or tuck in the problem wires until everything is perfectly smooth. Now you can add a patina, buff and/or seal your pendant if you want. When any finishes you've added are dry, your pendant is ready for a cord or chain.

Have fun!



Making filigree

Here's where the real artistry comes in. The filigree is the delicate looking swirls and swoops that make up the design of the wire wrap. You make it with all the loose ends of wire after the cabochon is set. Exactly what you do is up to you, but here are some basic tips and techniques:

Rosettes

This is probably the most common design element in wire wrapping. You make a rosette by using your round nose pliers to make a tiny round loop at the end of a wire. Then wind the loop into a tight spiral using flat nosed pliers. To do this hold the wire in one hand and rotate the wires in the other hand a quarter turn at a time. You can make the rosettes with twisted or untwisted wire for different looks.

Loops

Making loops and shapes with the wire is a lot of fun, but don't go too big or the wire will bend too easily. Keep swooping wires tight to the setting and find a way to secure the end on another wire.

Bundles

For a sophisticated look, try making a bundle by taking several of the loose wires and wrapping them with more half round wire. Finish the ends

OCMS members are covered by Society-sponsored insurance.

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Orange County Mineral Society, Inc. Officers:

President:	Mike Tedford	(845) 542-6441	<u>Click to email Mike</u>
VP/Programs:	Gary Kerstanski	(845) 978-4141	<u>Click to email Gary</u>
2 nd VP:	Alex Kerstanski		<u>Click to email Alex</u>
3 rd VP:	Ryan Richardson	(845) 629-5120	<u>Click to email Ryan</u>
VP Emeritus/Historian:	Frank Clyne	(845) 361-4710	<u>Click to email Frank</u>
Treasurer:	Ron Nelson	(914) 850-2486	<u>Click to email Ron</u>
Show Chairman:	Gavin Hannah		<u>Click to email Gavin</u>
Membership Com Chair	Brigitte Nesteroke	(845) 386-4119	<u>Click to email Brigitte</u>
Secretary:	Position Open		<u>Click to email</u>
Shale Mail Editor:	Alison Pacut	(845) 902-8562	<u>Click to email Alison</u>
Webmaster:	Ron Nelson	(914) 850-2486	<u>Click to email Ron</u>
Field Trip Leader	Frank Vigilante	(570) 618-2770	<u>Click to email Frank</u>