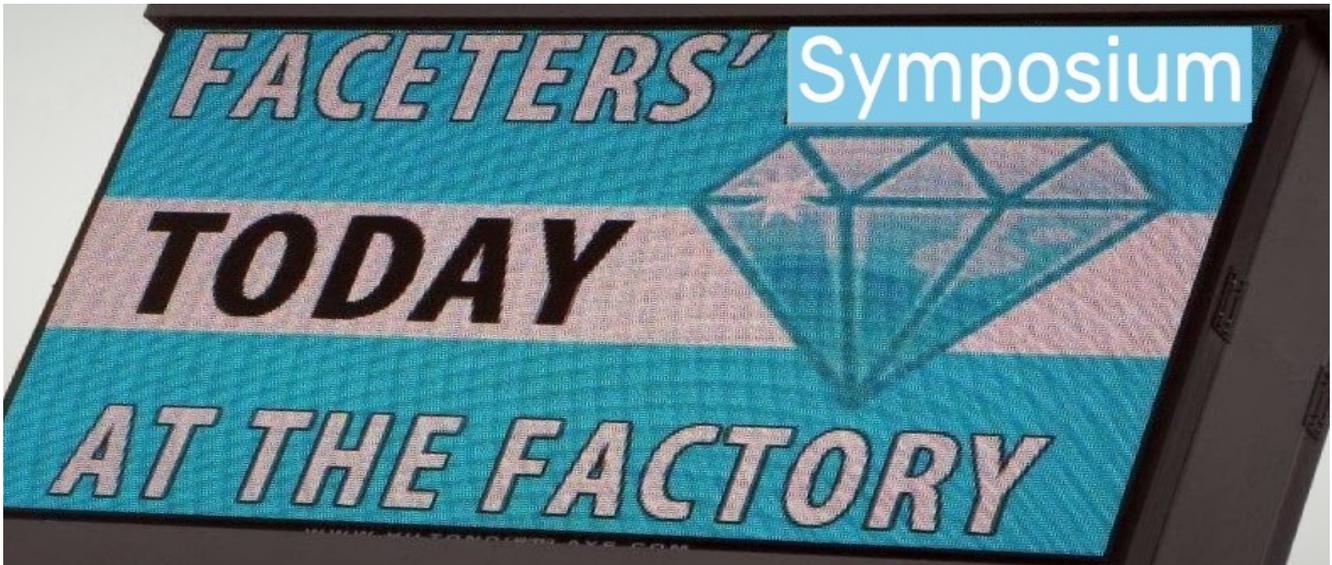


Faceting Symposium

July 29-31, 2022

Hosted by the **USFG**, the 2022 Franklin Faceting Symposium will be July 29-31 at the Fun Factory, located at 1024 Georgia Rd. in Franklin, NC.



After a well attended, post-pandemic gathering last year, this year's event is shaping up to be a tremendous success. Just to name a few of our vendor commitments, we have John Garsaw Gems, Marsh Howard Lightning Laps, Tom & Judy Mitchell, and Dan Lynch. All will be on hand to share their expertise and products.

How would you like to hear about giving "***New Life***" to a gemstone? Well, you won't want to miss hearing from Boyd Fox, the Gemstone Surgeon. Boyd, from San Antonio, TX, is an AGTA Spectrum Award Winner, professional gemstone cutter, and gemologist. He will be sharing and relating some of his experiences in recutting and refinishing high-end precious stones.

Or how would you like to hear about "***The Impact of Cut on Colored Gemstones***". Well, you won't want to miss hearing from Lisa Elser as she will be presenting and discussing remotely on that subject. Lisa, who is located in Vancouver BC, is also an AGTA Spectrum Award Winner with her 14.24 carat red tourmaline that is located in the Smithsonian. Lisa travels the world to ethically source gem rough, and facets unique, precision cut, award winning gems in her Vancouver BC studio.

Have you ever had a stone, a piece of quartz maybe, that just would not polish out, making you want to pull your last hair out or worse? Well, you won't want to miss hearing from John Gearloose Rolfe, as he discusses **"Polishing Techniques"**, or maybe I should say pressure, friction drag, moisture, and speed, just to name a few. John is a well known and respected faceter with a wealth of knowledge regarding laps and polish. In any case, John will be presenting remotely, as he talks and demonstrates some of the tried and true polishing techniques that work consistently time and time again.

I am also happy to announce that since our first posting a few weeks ago, the response to our faceting class, **"Tips & Tricks on Faceting"** has been phenomenal. We are now officially full. The class will be taught by Tom Mitchell, past president of the USFG. He will be assisted by Ed Katz, and it will take place on Friday and Saturday mornings. It promises to be filled with tips and tricks to improve the skills of those that signed up.

Our plans also include a Saturday evening pizza gathering, which allows time for our guests to meet and chew the fat with other faceters, as well as have a chance to win some of the door prizes donated by our supporting vendors. And yes, there will be a Prettiest Stone contest, with several opportunities to make an entry with a Natural, a Synthetic, or a Fantasy stone, so you will want to make plans to be there.

We are still busy planning and tweaking our schedule and there are still numerous opportunities for you to help. We continue to look for those who want to sell at a table, those interested in doing a presentation, or those, who are willing to support the event with your time and experience, so please contact me. The success of the USFG, as well as the Symposium greatly depends on you, the membership. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Franklin. Doug