



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society

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The Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society meets at 7:30 PM ON THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH at "Ye Olde Rock Shop" 1425 S. 30th Ave, Hollywood, FL 33020

Take I-95 to Pembroke Road, (Exit 19), go West ½ blk. Turn Right just before the RR tracks. Turn Right after the 1st building, then Left at the fence. Ye Olde Rock Shop will be on the left 50 feet up.

Visitors & Members are encouraged to attend!

The Opening Act

Monthly Meeting – Show & Tell

Our April meeting is **Wednesday, April 19th at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be a movie from the Gem Lovers Collection titled "The Three Kings: Rubies, Emeralds & Sapphires".

Meeting Refreshments: This month's meeting refreshments will be sponsored by club members Cheryl Bascome.

Rock Star of the Month is Peridot !!!

The Rock Star of the Month for March is Peridot. Please bring any Peridot rough, specimens or jewelry you have to show the club.

Special Thank you

The FGCMS owes a special thank you to Dr. Bennett Braun. Dr. Braun contacted Sean Branagin about some lapidary equipment & rock that his father owned. Dr. Milton Braun, (Bennett's father) was an orthodontist, professor & department chairman at Loyola University. Upon retiring, he & his wife moved to South Florida and took up the hobby of gem cutting & carving. (He used a 1912 Ritter dental drill to carve stone!) His son Bennett believes he was a member of the club during the late 70's or early 80's. After his dad passed, the equipment sat idle. Dr. Braun & his wife donated his dad's 6 wheel cab machine, a trim saw, bulk rock & slabs to be used for capping. The lapidary equipment will be used in the shop. The rock will be cut into slabs and will be for sale to club members looking for something different to cut. Thank you again to the Braun family for their donation.

Our Rock Star – A Look Back

Last year, one of our Rock Star's was actually a whole rock band - It's Tourmaline! Tourmaline is actually a group of minerals that are related. Elbaite is the star of the show & is what is usually used for gemstones. The rest of the band is Schorl, Dravite & Liddicoatite. This Boron Silicate mineral combines with elements such as Aluminum, Iron, Magnesium, Sodium, Lithium or Potassium. This is why Tourmaline can be a variety of colors. Schorl or Black Tourmaline dates back to the 1400's in Saxony. Dravite is Brown Tourmaline & rather uninteresting. Liddicoatite, is a related to Elbaite and has zoned colors of brown, green &/or pink. Elbaite is the gemstone variety of Tourmaline. The name Tourmaline is from the Sinhalese term "turmalī", given to all colored stones from Sri Lanka. Colored Tourmaline stones were first brought to Europe in the 1600's by the Dutch East India Company. Tourmaline has a Mohs hardness of 7 - 7.5, a SG 3.06, a vitreous, resinous luster, streaks white & is a parallel elongated prism. Tourmaline has both piezoelectric & pyroelectric properties. It is pleochroic, exhibiting lighter or darker coloring when viewed at different angles of light. (Cont'd on Page 3)

“Diamonds Are Forever”

Marine diamond mining produces the highest percentage of gem quality diamonds. Diamonds are eroded out of kimberlite pipes by weathering, (mostly rain) and swept into rivers & carried into deltas where rivers meet oceans. Wave action over time (90M years) moves diamonds into deeper water. Imperfect stones are destroyed, leaving a 95% rate of gem quality diamonds. Marine exploration uses 3 types of mining. *Airlift* mining uses compressed air to vacuum up sediment to the ship for sorting. *Vertical* mining lowers a large area drill device to drill into the sea floor & pump the sediment up to the ship. *Horizontal* mining uses a tracked crawler, lowered to the seafloor. The crawler excavates the bottom & pumps the sediment back to the ship. Up to 60 tons per hour can be removed & sorted. De Beer's has 5 ships, 12 miles off the Namibia coast, mining in over 400' of water, retrieving 1M carats a year. Once diamond ore is found, how are the diamonds processed?

Answer on page 4.

**GET INVOLVED!**

The Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society offers a variety of ways that you can become involved within the club.

What is it? Got a rock you've always wondered about? At each monthly meeting we spend a few minutes identifying rocks, gems or minerals. Sometimes we know...sometimes we have to find out.

The Cabbing Shop Learn how to cabochon or facet a gem stone by our experts, for nominal fee. Once you learn, the shop is available for use, for a small charge. Please ask Steve or Don about classes.

The Library The Les & Marge DeGarmo Library has a variety of books & magazines on just about any subject dealing with rocks, gems, minerals or jewelry.

Outside Our Area Check out the Southeast Federation website. Rock & Gem Clubs from all over the U.S. have websites that you can contact. Lapidary & jewelry schools such as Wild Acres or William Holland list class schedules.

TIPS AND TRICKS By Brad Smith are available at facebook.com/benchtips or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips. For details go to <http://Createspace.com/3976439> or <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800>

Mineral Study Group: KC Foster has a monthly group meeting the first Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 10:00pm. Contact KC at 561-523-4600. You will learn about crystal systems, how to ID minerals, what reference materials are available and how to collect, mount and display micro-minerals.

Regional Gem & Mineral Shows**May 11 - 14 Franklin, NC:**

Four Gem & Mineral Shows take place in Franklin, NC from May 11th - 14th. The Echo Valley, The Highlands Road & The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin Shows all takes place in the Franklin area during this time period. These are “selling shows” and offer a huge variety of gems, minerals, slabs, fossils and rocks at discounted prices. The G&LW Show also occurs during this time period but requires a business license as it is a “trade only” show.

May 12-14—Georgia Mineral Society Annual Rock Show:

The Georgia Mineral Society's 49th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show - May 12, 13, 14, 2017 - Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy., SE, Marietta, GA 30060. Show Hours: Friday - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday - noon - 5 p.m. EXCITING AUCTION Saturday at 1 p.m.!!! FREE Admission! FREE Parking! Over 30 Dealers! Door Prizes! SPECIAL Door Prize for Students! Win a Great Prize for Yourself and for Your School.; e-mail: mayshow@gamineral.org;

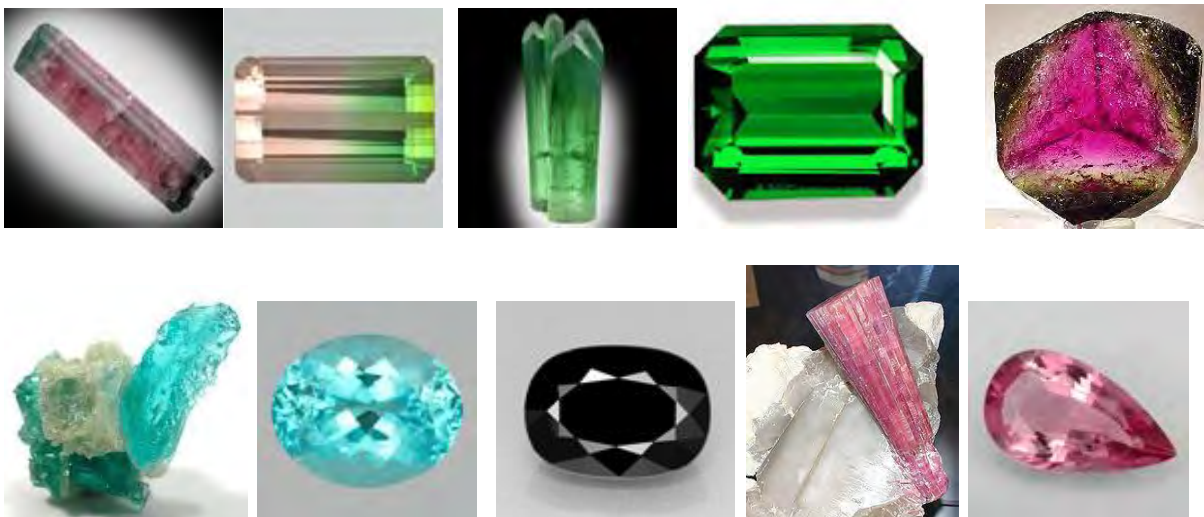
Local News

March 15th Meeting Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM. The minutes of the February meeting were accepted. There were 22 members and 1 guest in attendance. Thank you Don & Angie Dietz for bringing the refreshments! Shop Report: The large trim saw motor burnt out & will need to be replaced. There are 2 openings for the next faceting class, please speak with Sean or Steve about reserving a spot. The wire wrapping class is delayed as Pat Rosbury was ill. KC Foster attended the Fossil Fest and donated a book on fossils to the club's library. Thank you KC! Betty Bunnell asked club members to please help her teachers club as they again have an "Old Jewelry Sale" which supports education scholarships in South Florida. Members are asked to please bring any type of costume or other jewelry to the next meeting. Darlene will report on the Shark Tooth Field trip which occurred April 5-9. Don Dietz will find out if founding club member Les DeGarmo has any bulk rock left to choose from. The date of the next tri-county picnic is June 4th. The member's held a "Show & Tell" with many bringing a variety of their finished works, rock collections and unusual items. There are some very talented lapidaryists in this club! The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM .




Our Rock Star (from page 1)

Bi-colored Tourmaline can also be dichroic, showing different colors at different angles of light. Tourmaline may have chatoyancy when cabbed. The Elbaite variety of Tourmaline occurs in all colors. The most recognizable varieties are Rubellite, a pink to red Tourmaline, Watermelon, a green & pink combination, Indicolite, a blue Tourmaline, Chrome, the most recognizable, a deep green Tourmaline and Paraiba, the most valuable, a brilliant neon blue Tourmaline. Tourmalines have been used as gemstones for centuries. They have been mistaken for Emeralds, Rubies, Sapphires & Topaz. High quality stones are usually faceted, lesser quality stones are cabbed. They are used in all types of jewelry. Tourmaline is found in many locations, with larger deposits in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka & Africa. In the U.S., Tourmaline is found in Maine & California. Tourmaline is the birthstone for October. Each of the varieties of Tourmaline has its own metaphysical properties . Artists used them for creativity. Watermelon Tourmaline aids in love & relationships or Chrome (green) Tourmaline helps with success & money. No matter what color you like, you'll have your own Rock Star in any piece of Tourmaline!



Information for this article gathered from Smithsonian Rock & Gem, Google Image, www.minerals.net, www.geology.com, www.gemselect.com, www.mindat.org, www.gia.edu, & Wikipedia

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The Crystal Cave
 Rock and Gem Shop.com

E-mail: jackiescrystalcave@att.net Stirling Place
 Hours: 12 Noon to 6 p.m. Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri. 6835 Stirling Road
 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat., Closed Sun. & Mon. Davie, Florida 33314

Design By Nature

Ye Olde Rock Shoppe
 1425 S. 30th Avenue Hollywood, FL 33020
 yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net

The showroom is open Tuesday - Saturday 9:00- 2:00 and other times by calling 954-295-0606.



BOCA | The Art School
 Museum of Art

The Art School offers classes in precious metal clay, metals fabrication, cabochon cutting, enameling and other art jewelry related subjects, as well as drawing, painting, clay and pottery, photography and more. Check it out at www.bocamuseum.org/theartschool or facebook.com/bocaschool or call at 561-392-2503.

The Last Word

There's never enough room to fully explain some of the details in writing "Diamonds are Forever". For more information on Marine Mining go to: www.diamondfields.com or www.debeersgroup.com, under Our Story, Innovative Hub, Marine Mining.

Check out the article "Diamond Mines in the U.S. on www.geology.com dated April 2nd. You'll find it in the right hand column, about half way down the page.



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THINGS TO REMEMBER

The May 2017 meeting is **Wednesday, May 17th** at 7:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.

Diamonds Are Forever: Regardless of how diamonds are mined, the processing & sorting is basically the same. The kimberlite ore is crushed, milled & separated using various techniques.

Shop Hours: Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30 PM, Sundays 9:00AM-12:00PM - Contact Steve to RSVP 954-989-1664. The shop is located at **33 East Acre Drive, Plantation, 33317, Ste. 33.**

FGCGMS OFFICERS CONTACT INFORMATION

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