



# 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 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH at "Ye Olde Rock Shop" 1425 S. 30<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Our August meeting is **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be a movie titled "The Diamond Story" which covers diamonds from mining to cutting & will help clarify our yearlong article. **Meeting Refreshments:** This month's meeting refreshments will be sponsored by club member Ariel Helman.

### Rock Star of the Month is Alexandrite !!!

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

**Tri-County Picnic** The next Tri-County picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at TY Park from 10AM until 4PM. Please see our website for additional information.

## Diamond Grading & The 4C's

*(Editors note: Please read the column "Diamonds Are Forever" on page 2 before reading this article.)*

In 1953 the Gemological Institute of America, (GIA) introduced the 1<sup>st</sup> diamond grading report. How this all came about is a story for another time - see page 2! What's important to understand is that prior to this, there was NO standard. Many jewelers were unknowledgeable or unscrupulous. Even today, there are other types of grading systems & certifications, but none are as well known & respected as the GIA's. The 4C's: Color, Cut, Clarity & Carat Weight are the basis of the GIA grading report.

**Color** - really means the lack of color. A "pure" diamond has no color, like water and demands the highest value. The grading scale uses controlled lighting & viewing to compare "master stones" of established color values to the stone being evaluated. Each color is given a letter designation from D to Z with D being clear and Z being light yellow tan. (Fancy colored diamonds, yellower than Z or other colors are graded more for color depth & intensity. Color grading involves rating the hue, tone & saturation of color.) The vast majority of diamonds sold are clear. Colors are still considered rare.

**Clarity** - is the absence of inclusions (internal) or blemishes (external). The diamond is viewed with a 10X loop and the number, size & position of inclusions or blemishes are noted. The GIA clarity scale rates diamonds as Flawless, Internally Flawless, VVS1 or VVS2 (very, very slightly included) VS1 or VS2 (very slightly included), S1 or S2 (slightly included) or I1, I2 or I3 (included). I3 would be so included it can be seen with the naked eye. Feathers (internal cracks), Crystals (mineral impurities), Fillings (glass like substances filled thru drilled holes) & Treatments (HPHT - high pressure high temp coatings to change or improve color) are also noted. (Cont'd on Page 3)

### ***“Diamonds Are Forever”***

Diamonds are cut by hand & by automation. Larger stones are usually cut in Antwerp, Tel Aviv, Dubai, New York or London, while smaller stones (under 3 C) are sent to India & China. There are 5 steps to cutting diamonds: Planning, Cleaving or Sawing, Bruting, Polishing & Final Inspection. Planning involves computer analysis of a 3D model to identify flaws & determine the most profitable cut. Cleaving splits a diamond into 2 cuttable stones & is done on the tetrahedral plane (the weakest point). A chisel is struck on a laser cut groove to split the stone in two. Sawing is done by diamond tipped blade or laser, to cut odd shaped diamonds or multiple pieces. Bruting, aka Girdling rounds a diamond to 1/10<sup>th</sup> MM or less and is usually done by spinning 2 diamonds on dop sticks against each other. The Polishing stage (faceting) consists of Blocking & Brillianteering. (In a Brilliant cut) Blocking is 8 pavilion cuts, 8 crowns, 1 culet & 1 table. This creates the template for the next stage. Brillianteering adds the remaining 39 facets & requires the most experience. In the Final Inspection acid is used to clean the diamond. It is checked for specs & touched up if necessary. The diamond is then sent for a grading report. How is a diamond graded? 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.

## The History of the GIA

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA), based in Carlsbad, California is the leading global resource for gem knowledge. The GIA is a non-profit, independent organization which defines the standards of all gems, develops grading systems to assist consumers, designs & manufactures “state of the art” tools & equipment, provides global education & research and certifies jewelers & gemologists through its 10 world-wide locations. Its roots go back to the 1920's when Robert M. Shipley Sr. recognized the need for education & standard practices in the jewelry industry. After his own jewelry business & marriage failed, Mr. Shipley moved to Paris to study art & start over. He remarried, recognized his love of teaching & took a correspondence course from Great Britain's National Association of Goldsmiths. He returned to the U.S. in 1929 with a vision of changing the professionalism of jewelers. He founded the GIA in 1931, offering home study courses to be a certified jeweler. He founded the American Gem Society (AGS) in 1934 as a professional guild of knowledgeable jewelers & the same year he published *Gems & Gemology*, the GIA's journal of research. By 1933 his son Robert Jr. joined the GIA with a scientific background, inventing varieties of equipment which changed the way gems were analyzed. In 1940 Robert Liddicoat, considered by many “the father of modern gemology” joined him. Mr. Liddicoat wrote many books & expanded the GIA globally. For a complete history with timelines go to [www.gia.edu](http://www.gia.edu).



## Local News

**July 19th Meeting Minutes:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The minutes of the June meeting were accepted. There were 24 members and 6 guests in attendance. Thank you Ernest & Tove Ashurst for bringing the refreshments! Shop Report: All classes are available; please speak with Steve. Sean has offered to cut rocks on the slab saw for members. The cost is 1 slab for every 3 cut. Karen's "Solderless Setting" class will begin this Saturday at the shop. Students will learn to set a stone in a pendant using simple tools. Please speak with Karen if you're interested in a future class. Wire wrapping classes are also available, please speak with Steve. There have been 2 sales at Les's house and both went well. Don will let us know when the next dig is scheduled. The next tri-county picnic is Sunday, September 24th. Our field trip organizer, Darlene Harris discussed a trip to Quartzite, AZ to mine & attend the Tyson Wells Sell-a-Rama. A sign-up sheet for additional information was passed around. If you were not at the meeting and would like to know more about it, please contact Darlene at stay@limpkinlodge.com. Our presentation was given by Ms. Carolee Boyles of the WPB club. Carolee delivered a power point presentation on her life as a rock hound. She explained how she began, how she started acquiring unusual specimens and how it lead her into cutting, selling & collecting. Thank you Carolee for a fun & interesting presentation ! The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.



## Diamond Grading & the 4C's (from page 1)

**Cut** - is how the facets interact with light, not whether it's round, oval or square. Cut involves the proportion, symmetry & polish of a diamond. The GIA rating can be Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair or Poor. The proportions of the cut determine the Brightness (internal & external white light reflected thru the stone), Fire (the rainbow spectrum) & Scintillation (the amount of sparkle & pattern of light & dark areas in the stone). The most complex of the 4C's, cut also includes the weight relative to the diameter, the girdle thickness, the symmetry of the facets & the quality of the polish.

**Carat Weight** - one metric carat = 200 milligrams; there are 100 points to 1 carat. This allows diamonds to be weighed to the hundredth decimal point. (The carat measurement became the world standard in 1907. Prior to that each country had its own "carat weight" The name came from the "carob" bean which was incorrectly believed to be the same weight throughout the species of tree and was used as the standard of measurement. A stone might weigh 4 carobs.) A diamond less than 1 carat weighs in points such as a 0.25 carat diamond = a 25 point diamond. There are "magic sizes" such as .50 C, .75C and 1 C with price milestones. A diamond that is 99 points will be significantly less money than one that is 1 carat, even though there is only a 1/100 difference. This is why the planning stage & precision cutting is so important. Also, different 1 carat diamonds may look larger or smaller than each other, depending upon the cut. With all else being equal, the price will increase exponentially based upon the weight.

The GIA grading report is not an appraisal but it lists the exact qualities of the diamond. Only unmounted diamonds may be graded. GIA offers microscopic engraving on the girdle of the diamond which can include the grading report number and/or a custom message or name for additional identification of the stone. Other types of GIA reports are available for smaller diamonds or for on-line use only. The GIA grading report insures the diamond you are buying is worth what you're paying. I encourage you to go on the GIA.edu website and read the complete information and watch the short video's on all of the aspects of the 4C's.



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 Rock and Gem Shop.com

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 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**  
 Museum of Art

The Art School

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](http://www.bocamuseum.org/theartschool) or [facebook.com/bocaschool](https://facebook.com/bocaschool) or call at 561-392-2503.

**The Last Word**

What rock is used to make beer?

Find out at the next meeting!



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**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

The September 2017 meeting is **Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.

**Diamonds Are Forever:** Diamonds are graded using the 4 C's developed by the GIA. The feature article on page 1 will explain the process.

**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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