



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society

February 2018
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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!**

Headlines

Monthly Meeting

Our February meeting is **Wednesday, February 21th at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be on North Carolina gems & minerals by Miami club president John Speier. John has been mining in North Carolina for 30 years in the Franklin / Spruce Pine area & will cover a variety of gems & minerals, what he has found, the local mineral shows and other information about the area. Please don't miss this interesting & informative presentation. **Meeting Refreshments:** February's refreshments will be sponsored by Sylvia Romans.

Rock Star of the Month is Aquamarine !!!

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

Past Rock Stars – A Look Back

Some time ago we discussed a long time "Rock Star"; it might even be a whole rock band - Garnet! The name Garnet covers a group of silicate minerals that all have the same physical properties and physical forms but differ in chemical compositions. When most people hear the word Garnet, they think of a deep red gemstone. Garnet actually comes in almost every color, even blue. The word "Garnet" comes from the Latin "granatum" meaning dark red in color which was associated with the fruit pomegranate. Garnet has been used as a gemstone & abrasive since the Bronze Age (3300BC). Garnet jewelry has been found in Egyptian & Roman graves. It's one of the 12 stones of Aaron's breastplate. Garnets, also referred to as "carbunkles" were commonly used in jewelry from Pliny the Elder through the Middle Ages, right through today.

Garnets are found world-wide. There are 2 main groups of garnets, Pyrospite & Ugrandite. Without getting too complicated, Pyrospite garnets have aluminum in their composition while Ugrandite garnets have calcium in their composition. The Pyrospite group includes Pyrope, Almandine & Spessartine. Pyrope garnets are deep red to black red. They have a magnesium aluminum make-up. They're found in Colorado & Wyoming. Rhodolite garnets are the violet red variety of Pyrope garnets, (2 parts Pyrope/1 part Almandine). They are found in North Carolina & Montana. Almandine garnets are iron aluminum, deep red transparent to opaque & often called "precious garnets". They're found in Idaho. Spessartine garnets have a magnesium aluminum make-up

(Cont'd on Page 3)

"In the News"

In the late 1980's 3 Brazilian miners in Pedra Azul, Minas Gerais, Brazil found a 1 meter long Aquamarine crystal....and they dropped it. It broke into 3 pieces. Two of the sections were cut into gemstones, but the largest and finest section became the world's largest faceted Aquamarine, the Dom Pedro. In '91 Jurgen Henn, a German gem dealer, examined the crystal in Brazil. He knew his colleague Bernd Munsteiner could create something truly special. It took a year of negotiating to acquire the 60 lb. crystal. Bernd Munsteiner studied the crystal for 4 months and took 6 months to cut, facet & polish the piece which stand 13.75" tall and 4" wide at the base. After being shown at European shows, the Dom Pedro was going to be cut into gemstones to recoup money. Jane Mitchell & her husband Jeffery Bland saved the crystal & donated it to the Smithsonian. The complete story can be read at mineralsciences.si.edu. Type Dom Pedro in the search box.

**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](https://www.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 Trade Shows**February 16-18 Sarasota**

Gem, Jewelry & Bead Annual Show; Frank Cox Productions, Sarasota Auditorium; 801 N. Tamiami Trail (US. 41), Sarasota, 34236; Daily 10-5; Admission \$5, Children under 16 free; \$4.00 admission if you mention this listing.

February 24th Lakeland

Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society Annual Show, First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, 175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr, Lakeland, FL 33801; Sat 9AM to 4:30PM; Admission \$3, Children under 18 & teachers free; Over 25 Vendors, Demonstrations, Educational Display, Hourly Door Prizes, Spin & Win Mineral Wheel, Teachers Raffle, Kids Mineral Dig, Silent & Chinese Auctions, Earth Science Displays

March 2-4 Athens, GA

Southeastern Mineral Specimens Annual Show, The Classic Center; 440 Foundry Street, The Pavilion, Athens 30606 Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; Adults \$5, Children under 15 and under free; [facebook.com/SoutheasternMineralSpecimens](https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternMineralSpecimens)

Local News

January 17th Meeting Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. The minutes of the December meeting were accepted & approved. **There were 14 members and 1 guest in attendance.** Shop Report: The shop has been slow. Once again, it was asked if opening the shop on a different evening, in addition to our current schedule, would bring more people to the shop. Please contact Steve if you have suggestions. A variety of classes are offered. Please contact Steve for availability. The tri-county picnic was well attended by all 3 clubs. We had perfect weather & great food. Our club was able to raise a significant amount of money from selling slabs, mineral specimens & agatized coral. Thank you for those who donated prizes for the raffle and bingo. Les DeGarmo's house has been sold and the club plans to meet there on Sunday the 21st from 11 - 4 to prospect for slabs & bulk rock. Our program was the Smithsonian movie: The Mystery of the Hope Diamond which traced the diamonds journey from its origin to its 50th anniversary at the Smithsonian. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.



Our Rock Star – A Look Back (from page 1)

and are an orange-yellow color. If there are traces of Almandine, they can be a reddish-orange color. These are found in California, Colorado & Maine, usually in granite pegmatites. One other garnet in this family worth mentioning is the Pyrope Spessartine garnet 1st discovered in the late 1990's in Madagascar. This is a color changing garnet, based on different light sources and found as bluish green to corn flower blue, green to brown or purple to pink.

Ugrandite garnets include Andradite, Grossular, Uvarovite & Hydrogrossular garnets. Andradite garnets are a calcium iron garnets that are red, brown, yellow green or black. The Topazolite (yellow to greenish yellow), found in Arizona & California are in this group, as is the Demantoid garnet, a deep green, found outside the U.S.. Grossular garnets are a light green & can be a cinnamon red. Tsavorite garnets are also in this group and found outside the U.S.. Uvarovite Garnets are a bright green cluster of garnet crystals. They are rare & found in Russia & Finland. Hydrogrossular garnets, also known as Transvaal Jade or African Jade are a massive crystal, usually either green or pink but can be white or gray. Dark inclusions make this look similar to Jade. Garnets have a hardness of 6.5 to 8.5, a SG of 3.5 - 4.3 and a vitreous luster. Garnets are the state mineral of Connecticut, the state gemstone of New York & the state gem of Idaho. They can be cabbed or faceted for any type of jewelry and have a variety of industrial uses from grits to lasers. Garnet is a hall of fame rock star!



Variety of colors



Almandine



Pyrope



Spessartine



Pyrope Spessartine



Andradite



Grossular




Uvarovite



Hydrogrossular

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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

Your participation makes this club better.



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THINGS TO REMEMBER
 The March 2018 meeting is Wednesday, March 21st at 7:30 pm.

Happy Valentine's Day ! Share the Love.



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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