



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society

January 2017
Vol 17 Issue 1

Mailing Address: 6254 NW 102 Way, Parkland, FL 33076 Club Email: Thebrancian@bellsouth.net
Club Website: <http://www.fgcgms.com> Federation Website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 The Opening Act, Our Rock Star
- 2 Get Involved, Diamonds Are Forever, Regional News
- 3 Local News, Meeting Minutes
- 4 Ads, Contacts, Things to Remember & The Last Word



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

Our January meeting is **Wednesday, January 18th at 7:30pm**. Our feature presentation will be on Opal by Don Dietz. Don will discuss the various opals of the world; how they form, their colors and value. He will also review how to orient the stone and cutting & polishing techniques.

Meeting Refreshments: This month's meeting refreshments will be sponsored by the club.

Rock Star of the Month is Opal !!!

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

Tri-County Picnic

Our next tri-county picnic is scheduled for **Sunday, January 22nd** from 10:00AM to 4:00PM at TY Park, Pavilion #9, 3300 N. Park Road, Hollywood, 33021. This is 2 blocks North of Sheridan Street on Park Road. The clubs from Miami, WPB & Broward will bring the main dishes. Members are requested to bring a side dish or dessert. There will be a raffle & bingo with prizes. (Prize donations gladly accepted.) Members are encouraged to bring samples of their work or collections to show, trade or sell to other members. We should have beautiful weather & hope you make plans to attend.

Diamonds are Forever is the new column featured on page 2. Each month throughout the year the article will cover various aspects of diamonds from how they are formed to the folklore of cursed diamonds.

Our Rock Star – A Look back

Last January we talked about a rock star that would make "Pink" proud, it's Rhodochrosite ! This magnesium carbide mineral ($MnCO_3$) ranges in color from pale pink to rose (rare) to white, gray or even pale brown, depending upon impurities. Rhodochrosite was named in 1813 by Johann Friedrich Ludwig Hausmann, a German mineralogist from the Greek word "Rhodokhros" meaning "rose colored". Rhodochrosite usually forms in cavities of metamorphic or sedimentary rock where the mineral precipitates out of hydrothermal solutions. This repeated process causes layers to form and is what creates the ribbons of various pink & white colors. Rhodochrosite can also form as stalactites & stalagmites from the roof and floor of sedimentary caves where the mineral rich solution drips forming banded rhodochrosite logs.

(Cont'd on page 3)

“Diamonds Are Forever”

Diamonds are the April birthstone, the center stone of a wedding ring and the 60th & 75th wedding anniversary stone. Over the next 12 months this column will be dedicated to diamonds! The word diamond is derived from the Greek “adamas” meaning unbreakable. Diamond is the only gem composed of 1 single element, carbon. Most diamonds formed 1 to 3 billion years ago, 100 miles below the earth’s surface. Extreme temperatures of 1650° - 2370° F & pressures of 45 – 60 kilo bars cause carbon atoms to bond in the same way in all directions. (Diamonds & Nano-diamonds can also form from tectonic plate shifts, asteroids & meteorites.) Because of its bonding, it can only be contaminated by a couple impurities such as boron (causing a blue color) & nitrogen (causing a yellow color). Diamond is 58 times harder than anything else in nature. It is a defining mineral of 10 on the Mohs hardness scale. If most diamonds form miles under the earth, how do they come close to the surface where they can be mined?

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

January 13-15—LARGO, FLORIDA: Pinellas Geological Society Show & Sale, Largo Cultural Center; 105 Central Park Drive; Fri & Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5; Free Admission! Jewelry, gem trees, spheres, crystals, mineral specimens, slabs, artifacts, cut gems, Indian & Western jewelry, exhibits, silent auction.

January 13-15—SARASOTA, FLORIDA: Gem, Jewelry & Bead Show; Frank Cox Productions, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami (US 41), Daily 10-5; Admission \$5, Under 16 Free; Gems, Jewelry, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Beads. See Frank Cox Productions website for admission discount.

January 20-22—ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA: Gem, Jewelry & Bead Show; Frank Cox Productions, The Coliseum, 525 Fourth Ave. N. St. Petersburg, 33701; Daily 10-5; Admission \$5, Under 16 Free; Gems, Jewelry, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Beads. See Frank Cox Productions website for discount.

January 21-22—DELAND, FLORIDA: The Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. 46th annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 E. New York Ave, (Tommy Lawrence Building), Deland, FL (1/2 Mile East of I-4, Exit 118) Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$4.00

February 10-12—MELBOURNE, FLORIDA: Show and sale; Frank Cox Productions, Melbourne Auditorium; 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd.; Daily 10-5; Admission \$5, Under 16 Free; Gems, Jewelry, Crystals, Minerals, Fossils, Beads. See Frank Cox Production website for discount.

Local News

December 21st Meeting Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. Our annual Christmas party was attended by 55 members & guests. Club member Joe Soriano brought an African liqueur called Marula, which is made from the Marula fruit, which he discussed earlier this year. Thank you Joe for bringing that in! The election of officers was the only business scheduled. Sean Branigan was re-elected club president. Karen Warseck volunteered & was nominated & elected for vice-president. Susan Anderson was re-elected secretary & Barbara Norona was re-elected treasurer. Steve Ackerman was appointed shop foreman. There was a great variety of foods & desserts and everyone had an enjoyable evening. The party adjourned at 10:00 pm.




Our Rock Shop (from page 1)

Rhodochrosite streaks white, is transparent to translucent, has a vitreous to pearly luster, a SG of 3.3 to 3.7 and a Mohs hardness of 3.5 - 4.0. (Rhodochrosite is often mistaken for Rhodonite but Rhodonite is much harder at 6.0 to 6.5.) As a member of the Calcite group of minerals Rhodochrosite also has perfect cleavage, making it a poor choice for rings, as they may crack or chip easily. Rhodochrosite is often found in veins of silver mines and was discarded for years until rock collectors & lapidaries began creating a demand for it. Its main use is as an ore of manganese and is a key component of low cost stainless steel and aluminum alloy. Banded specimens are collected or used in jewelry. Rhodochrosite is found in Argentina; it's the national gemstone of that country, Peru, China, South Africa, Russia & Canada. In the United States, it's found in Montana & Colorado. It was named the Colorado state gemstone in 2002 after major finds of rose colored crystals at the Sweet Home Mine, near Alma, Colorado. No matter where you find your Rhodochrosite, you'll have a "rock star" of a gem!



JACQUELINE YODER (954) 585-8988
 Fax (954) 585-8989



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.**



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, or [facebook.com/bocaschool](https://www.facebook.com/bocaschool) or call at 561-392-2503.

The Last Word

Check out the article titled “Merlin has just unearthed Australia’s 5th Largest Diamond” on www.geology.com dated January 10th. It’s just one of many recent finds “down under”.

Additional information on the mining company & the mine, including a gallery of mining photos can be found on their website at www.merlindiamonds.com.au .



Quality lapidary Equipment & Supplies
 Since 1946 954-327-9103
www.gravescompany.com

THINGS TO REMEMBER

The February 2017 meeting is **Wednesday, February 15th** at 7:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.

Diamonds Are Forever: Diamonds are brought to the surface by deep volcanic eruptions of magma which cools in igneous rocks known as kimberlites & lamproites.

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

President	Sean Branigan	954-592-1503	the_branclan@bellsouth.net
Vice-President	Karen Warseck		kwarseck@gmail.com
2nd Vice-President	Steve Ackerman	954-989-1664	tropicbuilding@pghmail.com
Secretary	Susan Anderson		poochiepawlor@aol.com
Treasurer	Beverly Norona		bevn12345@aol.com
Editor	Buzz Robinson		buzzrocks@comcast.net
Webmaster	Eugene Hirnyk		webmaster@fgcgms.com
Membership	Audrey Sessoms		theaudrey@comcast.net
Sunshine Chair	Debbie Malloy		yorkierambo@bellsouth.net
Shop Foreman	Steve Ackerman	954-989-1664	tropicbuilding@pghmail.com