



# The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast  
Gem and Mineral Society

July 2017  
Vol 17 Issue 7

Mailing Address: 6254 NW 102 Way, Parkland, FL 33076 Club Email: [Thebranclan@bellsouth.net](mailto:Thebranclan@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, 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 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 June meeting is **Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be given by Ms. Carolee Boyles of the Palm Beach club. Carolee will give a presentation on her collection of minerals from around the world, her lapidary experience and how she finds & acquires her pieces. Carolee is an avid outdoors woman who enjoys fishing, rock-hounding, show dogs and is a freelance writer.

**Meeting Refreshments:** This month's meeting refreshments will be sponsored by club members Ernie & Tove Ashhurst.

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

The Rock Star of the Month for July is Moldavite. Please bring any Moldavite 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.

## Our Rock Star – A Look Back

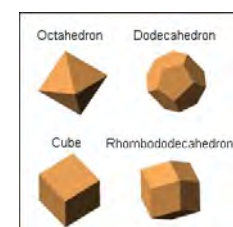
This month's Rock Star is something everyone who collects rocks or cuts stones has, Agate. Agate goes way back. It got its name from one of the fore-fathers of geology, Theophrastus. Studying under Plato & Aristotle, the future "father of botany" & author of "On Stones" found a beautiful stone in the river and named it Achates or Agate.

Agate is the banded form of Chalcedony, the micro-crystalline form of Quartz. Gem type Chalcedony is white or pale blue. Both Agate & Jasper are types of Chalcedony; the difference between them is "diaphaneity". Diaphaneity is how easily light passes through material. An "opaque" item does not allow light to pass through it. A "translucent" item allows only light to pass through and a "transparent" items allows both light & images to pass through. Jasper is opaque while Agate is translucent to semi-transparent usually with bands or plumes.

As a member of the Quartz family, (SiO<sub>2</sub>) Agate forms when gas pockets in solidifying lava become filled with alkali & silica rich water. Over a little time, (like millions of years) and under intense heat & pressure, iron oxide forms and the minerals begin to plate out from the solution. As the liquid drains, silica bands crystallize. (Cont'd on Page 3)

**“Diamonds Are Forever”**

Diamonds are hand sorted & categorized by experts which takes about 6 weeks & is done under heavy security. Various diamond samples are used as benchmarks. Diamonds form crystals in the cubic system such as octahedrons, dodecahedrons & cubes. A “makeable” diamond will produce 1 stone. A “sawable” diamond will produce 2 stones. They are initially sorted by cutting, cleavage, sawing, or industrial, then into distinct categories: gem quality, industrial quality & boart. Industrial diamonds must be good quality & are preferred yellow, as they are slightly harder when used for tools & dies. Boart is crushed poor quality diamonds and used for polishing compounds. Only about 20% of world production is gem quality. Thousands of sub-categories exist but the main ones are: weight, shape, quality & color. Small stones are 0.65C & below, Grainers are 0.66 – 1.79C, Large stones are 1.8 – 10.79C & Special stones are larger than 10.8C. Once diamonds are sorted, how are they cut? 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.

**Solderless Stone Setting Class Offered**

Have you got cabbed & polished stones that you don’t know what to do with? Do you want to set some of the stones you’ve cut? If you can’t or don’t want to solder, this class is for you. You will learn how to make beautiful prong settings to compliment your stones. In the class, you will gain skill in the use of a jeweler’s saw & learn filing and polishing metal. The basic setting is done in copper and from there we will discuss how it can be embellished. (We do recommend that you take the cabbing course first so that you will have the perfect stone to set.) For a list of materials (with photos) required for the course and where they may be purchased, copy & paste the following link in your browser:

<https://app.box.com/s/n0dgz8p7ucp3lb0v5mr0jj30bqjks7w0>

The approximate cost of the materials is \$40. Some of the tools you may already own. The class will be held at the club’s shop, 33 East Acre Drive, Plantation, 33317, Ste. 33 (the stained glass door) on **Saturday afternoons from 1 PM to 4 PM**. The first class starts on July 22nd if a minimum of two people sign up. The cost for the class is \$35.00 payable in cash at the first session. Checks made out to the Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society will also be accepted. To register, RSVP on Meetup (preferred) or email the instructor, V.P. Karen Warseck, at [kwarseck@gmail.com](mailto:kwarseck@gmail.com)

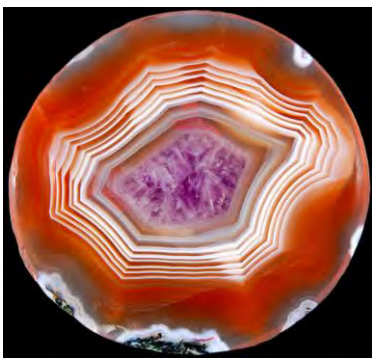
## Local News

**June 21st Meeting Minutes:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. The minutes of the May meeting were accepted. There were 33 members and 8 guests in attendance. Thank you Lucy Toro for bringing the refreshments! Shop Report: Due to the number of guests this week, Steve reviewed what the club has to offer with the cabbing & faceting shop. The shop has been a little slow, which means there's room if you want to cut a stone. Don has scheduled another trip to Les DeGarmo's house to recover slabs & rock for 1:00 PM, the Sunday after the meeting. Plan to get dirty & bring the bug spray. There were some true gems found at the last dig. (One person found a large black jade rock, another found some beautiful agate.) Les's house is located at 216 NW 42 Ave, Plantation, 33317. (1 blk West of Broward Blvd, near end of street) The next tri-county picnic will be in September. Karen wants to teach a solderless class to mount cabbed stones. Ms. Jane Ramsey of Tenhagen Appraisals in Miami gave a great presentation on the appraisal business. She covered why appraisals are needed, the different types of appraisals and how they're done. She also shared a few unusual stories about some of the items she worked with. Buzz Robinson won the drawing to have an item appraised. Jane also brought a large variety of cut stones which were available for purchase. Thank you Jane for an outstanding presentation !! The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM .



## Our Rock Star (from page 1)

If organics are present such as wood or coral, the silica can pseudo-morph the organics and form Agate. (Agatized Coral & Petrified Wood are examples.) Agate is commonly found with Quartz, Amethyst, Calcite & Hematite. Agate has a Mohs hardness of 6.5 - 7, streaks white, has a waxy luster and a SG of 2.58 - 2.64. Agate is commonly fluorescent, usually green or white, piezoelectric & triboluminescent. Agate is incredibly colored & beautifully banded. Some have unique plumes, inclusions or shadowing which resembles pictures or landscapes. If you find bright vivid colors like neon pink or blue, these Agates have been dyed & heated. Agates are commonly cabbed for jewelry, used as specimens and cut as bookends. Meta-physically Agates provide protection, strength & harmony. These Rock Stars are usually inexpensive and always a great addition to any collection!




*Information for this article gathered from Smithsonian Rock & Gem, Google Image,*

[www.minerals.net](http://www.minerals.net), [www.geology.com](http://www.geology.com), [www.gemselect.com](http://www.gemselect.com), [www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org), [www.desertusa.com](http://www.desertusa.com),

[www.rocktumbler.com](http://www.rocktumbler.com), & Wikipedia

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.**



**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**

If you've been following the year-long article, *Diamonds Are Forever*, I have an article for you to read. It discusses Brazilian Diamonds and covers the exploration of "the new world", how the diamonds were & are mined and the impact that occurred worldwide from this discovery. It's lengthy but well worth reading. Be sure to watch the short videos embedded in the article. Go to: [geology.com](http://geology.com), click on NEWS, scroll to the article titled, *Brazilian Diamonds: A historical & recent perspective* by the GIA, dated July 13<sup>th</sup>.



**GRAVES**

Quality lapidary Equipment & Supplies  
 Since 1946 954-327-9103  
[www.gravescompany.com](http://www.gravescompany.com)

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**  
 The August 2017 meeting is **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.

***Diamonds Are Forever:*** Diamonds used to be solely judged by eye & cut by hand. Computers, lasers & automation are now used to perfect & speed up 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**

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