



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society

March 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 March meeting is **Wednesday, March 21st at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be given by club member Richard Alexis on the "The 5 Fine Jasper's" which include Morrisonite, Imperial Jasper, Willow Creek Jasper, Blue Mountain and Bruneau Jasper. Richard has vast experience cabbing these and a variety of other stones. He has been awarded "Lapidary of the Month" by "Rock & Gem Magazine" and sells his work at mineral shows throughout the state.

Meeting Refreshments: March's refreshments will be sponsored by Buzz Robinson

Rock Star of the Month is Jasper !!!

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

Past Rock Stars – A Look Back

Last year we discussed a Caribbean Rock Star - Larimar! Larimar, also known as Stefilia's Stone or Caribbean Stone is the rare blue variety of Pectolite. Pectolite is an acid silica hydrate of calcium & sodium. It is normally gray in color but can be white, pink or yellow. Pectolites are found world-wide. When trace amounts of copper replace some of the calcium, the pectolite becomes blue. The blue Pectolite, (Larimar) is found in only 1 place in the world - the Dominican Republic. Larimar forms in hydrothermal cavities of basalt. Larimar can be light blue, green blue or deep blue with white. Originally discovered in 1916 by Father Miguel Domingo Loren, the stone stayed unknown, as he was not given permission by the government to explore for it. It was rediscovered in 1974 on the beach by Miguel Mendez & Norman Rilling. Locals thought the blue stone came from the sea. Miguel used part of his daughters name (Larissa) & the Spanish word for the sea (Mar) to name the stone. Alluvial deposits washed down the Bahoruca River to the sea. Miners traced Larimar's roots upstream to find larger deposits & the Los Chupaderos Mines were formed. Local miners form a co-op to work the area. There are of 2000 mine shafts from 100' to 395' deep. The dangerous mining is conducted for 7 months a year during the dry season. Larimar has a hardness of 4.5 - 5, SG 2.74 - 2.90 and a silky Luster. It is brittle & has perfect cleavage. It is translucent to opaque and can be chatoyant. It is only cabbled for use in various types of jewelry.

(Cont'd on Page 3)

"In the News"

There are several mines in the Arkansas Ouachita Mountains that are open to the public to mine large quartz crystals. One mine claims to be an area of paranormal activity occurring in association with "crystal energy" at the site. It has attracted the attention of UFO investigators & the Travel Channel's Expedition Unknown. The Board Camp Crystal Mine is an example of spooky geology.

The mine in Mena, Arkansas is owned by Orville & Cheryl Murphy. In February of 2017 they reported odd lights, including glowing spheres that levitated, which they have photographed. Friends suggested that this could be caused by the crystal energy in quartz, known for its piezoelectric & triboluminescent properties. People reported batteries draining quickly, static electricity & magnetized fence posts. (Very weird) For the complete story go to spookygeology.com, click on earth mysteries & scroll to "Strange Lights & Levitating Rocks at Arkansas Crystal Mine!"

**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

April 6-8 ORLANDO, FL:

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society Annual Gem, Mineral, Bead and Fossil Show. National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, 32806; Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Grade School Students \$2, Scouts & Children Free. Go to www.cfmg.org for \$1 off coupon. There will be demonstrations, 30 minute auctions, kids table, sluice mining for gems and hourly door prizes. See and buy gems, minerals, beads, metaphysical stones, fossils and much more from all over the world. Demos include cutting cabochons, wire wrapping.

April 14 - 15 PINECREST, FL:

Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild Show and Sale, Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124 Street; Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 5; Admission \$6, Children free. There will be exhibits, displays, demonstrations, raffles, and vendors showcasing mineral & fossil specimens, gemstones, fine jewelry and artisan crafted collectibles. Children's activities include jewelry making sessions, surprise grab bags, gem prospecting and geode splitting. Contact John Speier, FL, (305) 460 2244; email: webguy@mmlg-inc.org; Web site: www.miamigemandmineral.com

Local News

February 21st Meeting Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. The minutes of the January meeting were accepted & approved. There were 28 members and 3 guests in attendance. Sean Branigan was absent due to a “procedure”. Don Dietz was also absent due to illness. We wish them both well. Shop Report: One of the cab machines was repaired & all are now working. Steve has suggested a quarterly showing of cut stones or jewelry made by members to show the type of work that can be done. He is asking for suggestions to name this short portion of the meeting. (Something like “I Made This”) Please let Steve know your ideas. Les DeGarmo has moved to Wisconsin. The dig at his yard raised \$1300 for him. The club acquired some trays of rock & slabs. Thank you Les, for all you’ve done for the club. Please keep him in your thoughts & prayers. Darlene & Karen discussed information on 2 possible field trips. The first trip was discussed by Darlene Harris. The trip was originally planned for mid to late April but has now been moved to the fall. It will be to “dig for fee” mines in Georgia. No dates have been set as of yet but participants will mine in special dig areas for amethyst, quartz, beryl and more. This trip is tentative and will be finalized this summer. If you are interested in attending this trip and want more information, please email Darlene Harris at earthadvisorsvp@gmail.com.

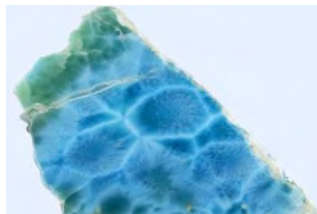
The second trip is being organized by Karen Warseck and would take place from Friday, May 18th through Thursday, May 24th. Attendees would depart on Friday, arriving in Baltimore with an optional tour of the B&O Railroad Museum. On Saturday, our group would attend the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Show. Sunday & Monday are possible field trip days with two local gem clubs. Tuesday would be a guided tour of the mineral gallery of the Smithsonian by Dr. Mike Wise. Plans for Wednesday have not been firmed up and Thursday would be the travel day back to Ft. Lauderdale. If you are interested in this trip please contact Karen Warseck at kwarseck@gmail.com. Thank you Darlene & Karen for organizing these trips!

John Speier, president of the Miami club, gave a presentation on the variety of minerals from the Franklin/Spruce Pine area of North Carolina. He brought various specimens to show the club and discussed the mineral shows in the area. Thank you John for a great presentation. Darlene showed photos of the field trip to Quartzite, AZ which some of the members went on. The group had a great time with a guide from the local club who took them to different spots to pick up Jasper & Petrified Wood. They also attended the Sell-A-Rama & purchased some unusual slabs & rock. Thank you Darlene for making this trip happen. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.



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

Metaphysically, Larimar is said to enhance spiritually, improve communication & provide a calming sense. This beautiful blue & white stone is a true Caribbean Rock Star!



JACQUELINE YODER

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Fax (954) 585-8989E-mail: jackiescrystalcave@att.netHours: 12 Noon to 6 p.m. Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri.
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat., Closed Sun. & Mon.Stirling Place
6835 Stirling Road
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

At the recent Las Olas Art Festival, I met 2 women in their display booths, who took silver-smithing classes from Don Dietz. The beautiful & unique jewelry that they make shows that with a little instruction, dedication to detail & a lot of creativity, YOU can be successful selling the items you make.

Go to www.hannahlongjewelry.com or [etsy.com/shop/LoretJewelry](https://www.etsy.com/shop/LoretJewelry) to view some of these unique items.



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THINGS TO REMEMBER

The April 2018 meeting is Wednesday, April 18th at 7:30 pm.

The date of the next tri-county picnic is Sunday, June 3rd. Please make a note of it.

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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