



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society

May 2017
Vol 17 Issue 5

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Club Website: <http://www.fgcgms.com> Federation Website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

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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!**

The Opening Act

Monthly Meeting

Our May meeting is **Wednesday, May 17th at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be given by WPB club member Michele Renee who will talk about U.S. & Moroccan fossils. She will discuss the history & location of these fossils and will bring some for display and for sale.

Meeting Refreshments: This month's meeting refreshments will be sponsored by club members Kathy Arenal & Toni Shouse.

Rock Star of the Month is Spinel !!!

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

Tri-County Picnic

Our next tri-county picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 4th 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. Admission to the park is \$1.50 per person or \$8 maximum per vehicle. The clubs from Miami, WPB & Broward will bring the main dishes. Members are requested to bring a side dish or dessert. Members may bring their own beverages but glass bottles are prohibited in the park. 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. Bring your family & friends for a fun time at the picnic !

Our Rock Star – A Look Back

Just a couple of months ago, we talked about "the chameleon" of rock; Tanzanite! What a rock star! Tanzanite is the blue-green variety of Zoisite. Vanadium causes the blue color of this Calcium Aluminum Hydroxyl Sorosilicate in the Epidote family. Rarely is it found deep blue. It's usually found in nature as a reddish brown. Heat treating will change or deepen the color to blue. This rock star is only found in 1 place, Tanzania, Africa. It was brought to the world's attention in 1967 but may have been known to the MaasaiTribe for generations before. Their verbal history tells of forefathers finding sacred blue stones after a great fire. Then in '67 a local tribesman showed one to Manual de Souza, a local prospector. Manual thought it might be sapphire but it wasn't hard enough. He brought a few samples to an MIT geologist he knew who was living there named John Saul. (This is where the story gets good!) John's father was Hyman Saul, the VP of Saks in New York. He took the samples, including 2 cut & polished by John to (Cont'd on Page 3)

“Diamonds Are Forever”

Regardless of how diamonds are mined, 2 types of processing are used: a Rotary Pan Plant (RPP) or a Dense Media Separation (DMS) plant. Both processes rely on diamond's high specific gravity. A RPP is smaller, semi-portable & usually used for alluvial mining, where diamonds are not embedded in ore. A DMS is a large fixed plant, built near the kimberlite mine. (Alluvial diamonds are more spread out over a larger area; kimberlite pipes hold larger amounts in one area.) In RPP, diamond ore, crushed to a chosen size or alluvial gravel & soil is mixed with water forming a slurry. The mix is strained by angled rotary teeth. The heavier material settles to the bottom, the lighter material washes away. In DMS powdered ferrosilicon (an alloy of iron & silicone) is suspended in water forming a heavy fluid near the density of diamond. This magnifies the gravity effect. Crushed kimberlite ore is added & swirled by a centrifuge at low & high speeds. Diamonds, along with garnets, diopside & spinel in suspension are forced to the side walls or bottom, depending upon the design of the separator, while the waste water & debris, which are lighter than the slurry, washes away. Is that all there is to processing diamonds? Answer on page 4.



DeBeers DMS Plant

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.

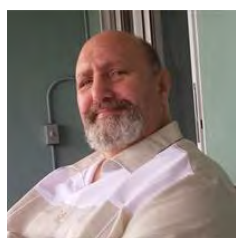
Outside Our Area Check out the Southeast Federation website. Rock & Gem Clubs from all over the U.S. have websites that you can contact. Lapidary & jewelry schools such as Wild Acres or William Holland list class schedules.

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.

Fred Stern

FGCGMS club member Fred Stern passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 22nd. Fred was born in Mt. Vernon, NY in 1949. He joined the Navy right out of high school and served on a nuclear submarine. Fred graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Geology. He learned the jewelry business in small jewelry shops in the Northeast. Fred moved to Florida about 1987 and continued to work as a jeweler, goldsmith & silversmith. Fred was well liked in the club and always contributed in discussions on various gems & minerals. He was very good at helping to identify unknown rocks & minerals. Fred met his wife Lillian on “Big Beautiful People.Com” 3 years ago and fell in love immediately. Fred is survived by his wife Lillian, his sister Andrea, Lillian's grandchildren & other loving relatives. You may leave personal condolences on Levitt-Weinstein.com/obituaries. Fred had a lot of lapidary equipment & minerals which his wife Lillian has asked Sean to help sell at club meetings. All of the money raised from these sales will go back to her. Minerals & photos of the equipment will be on display at the next meeting. Please speak with Sean if you are interested. Fred will be missed.



Local News

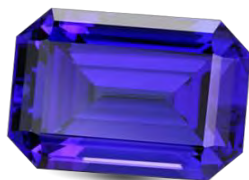
April 19th Meeting Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted. There were 24 members and 3 guests in attendance. Thank you Cheryl Bascome for bringing the refreshments! Shop Report: A new course is being developed to teach students how to set the stones they cut into findings. Don Dietz called it “solderless settings” and will teach the course. The faceting class is open for 2 students. Darlene talked about the Venice Shark Tooth Festival that she led with 5 members of the club. They went to the festival which had a variety of booths, food & live bands. They visited a warm mineral springs which everyone enjoyed. They also found small fossilized sharks teeth on Venice beach which Darlene brought to show the club. Darlene is investigating locations for another trip which she called “the Georgia Big Dig”! Details will be released in the future. Betty Bunnell thanked the club for the jewelry donations for her teachers association which raised \$300 which will be applied to their scholarship fund. Sunshine Report: Please keep Jacque Yoder of Crystal Cave & Hillary Schiff in your thoughts. Lillian Meyers is doing well and should be down in Florida soon. The club viewed the movie “The Three Kings” on a new high definition projector which provided a terrific picture that everyone could see. That, combined with the sound system KC Foster donated months ago made viewing the movie fantastic. Special thanks to Fletch who recommended & installed the equipment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40PM .



Our Rock Star (from page 1)

the Geological Institute of America, which was across the street, for identification. He also showed his friend, Henry Platt, the President of Tiffany’s. The Institute identified Tanzanite’s chemical make-up; Henry Platt gave Tanzanite its name! Named after the country, there were only 2 places you could get Tanzanite; Tanzania & Tiffany’s.

Tanzanite has a hardness of 6.5, a SG of 3.10-3.38, streaks white and has a vitreous luster. It also has perfect cleavage. Named the December birthstone in 2002, Tanzanite is pleochroic, showing multiple colors depending upon its orientation or the lighting conditions. Tanzanite begins as tri-chroic. Light enters the Tanzanites 3 axis’s showing 3 different colors of purple, blue, cyan, green, yellow, brown or red. Heat treating changes Tanzanite to di-chroic, changing the color of the stone to either violet to bluish violet or violet blue to blue. The heat treating is quick; 30 minutes at 1100° F. The color will appear more blue under fluorescent lighting and more violet under incandescent lighting. Tanzanite is used in pendants & earrings but use care when it’s used in rings as it can chip easily. Tanzanite is calming, energizing & raises awareness. The rock star Tanzanite is worth having!



JACQUELINE YODER

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Hours: 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

The best thing you can do with your minerals, rocks, fossils & gemstones is to display them, show them, share them & wear them.



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THINGS TO REMEMBER

The June 2017 meeting is **Wednesday, June 21st** at 7:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.

Diamonds Are Forever: No, after processing, there are 2 types of final recovery methods: hydrophobic & x-ray fluorescence.

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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