



# The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast  
Gem and Mineral Society

May 2018  
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*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!**

## Headlines

### Monthly Meeting

Our May meeting is **Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be the National Geographic Channel's TV Show "Mine Hunters". This series follows a mining crew as they travel to exotic locations and work with local miners to discover various gems. Popcorn will be served! **Meeting Refreshments:** May's refreshments will be sponsored by Karen Warseck.

### Rock Star of the Month is Blue Hemimorphite!!!

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

### Tri-County Picnic

The Tri-County picnic is Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00AM to 4:00PM at TY Park, Pavilion #9, 3300 N. Park Road, Hollywood, FL 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. For complete details please visit our website under Special Events. We hope you make plans to attend!

## Past Rock Stars – A Look Back

Last year we talked about a gemstone who's moniker is "Emerald by day, Ruby by night", Alexandrite. First discovered in 1830 in the Ural Mountains in Russia by Finnish mineralogist Nils Nordenkold, Alexandrite was named after Czar Alexander II. It is one of the rarest gemstones; more valuable than Emerald, Ruby or Sapphire. So much so that at the time only royalty could own it.

Alexandrite is one of the three gem varieties of Chrysoberyl. (Chrysoberyl, a yellow-green, Cymophane, a milk & honey cats eye & Alexandrite.) Alexandrite is the color changing variety of Chrysoberyl. It forms in low density molten magma pegmatites and is usually eroded out in alluvial deposits. It's often found with Diamonds, Corundum, Topaz, Spinel, Garnets & Tourmaline.

Alexandrite has a Mohs hardness of 8.5, streaks white, has a SG of 3.5 -3.8 and a vitreous luster. Crystals are cyclic twins called Trillings which are triplet twin crystals forming a "V" shape. The gemstone is pleochroic on 3 axis's: X - red, Y - yellow & Z - green. This causes what is called "the Alexandrite effect" causing the stone to appear green to bluish green in daylight and red to purplish red in incandescent light. (Cont'd on page 3)

***"In the News"***

The volcano Kilauea has been in the news over the last few weeks. The videos of flowing lava are mesmerizing. In the Hawaiian language, Kilauea means "much spreading". Kilauea is the youngest of the 5 volcanos found on the Big Island at only 600,000 years old. It emerged from the sea 100,000 years ago. The other volcanoes on the island are Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, Kohala & Hualalai. Kilauea is the most active volcano in the world, having erupted continuously since 1983. It is a "shield volcano", named for its low profile, like a warrior's shield, formed by lava flows forming in sheets. There are 2 active rift zones, (fissures); one running 78 miles to the east & the other 22 miles to the southwest. Kilauea is the home to the Hawaii Volcano National park, established in 1916. The Halemauma Crater, formed when the summit collapsed has a caldera of lava 2300' X 2950' and believed to be 1300' deep. Hawaiians believe Kilauea is the home to the Fire Goddess Pele.

**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.

**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 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.

**TIPS AND TRICKS** By Brad Smith are available at [facebook.com/benchtips](https://www.facebook.com/benchtips) or [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips](https://www.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.

**Thank you Sandy Wright & Greg Prytyka**

Alexandra P. "Sandy" Wright (Prytyka) was born in Tampa in 1946. At an early age she became interested in gems & minerals. She turned the Prytyka family into rock hounds. They vacationed in North Carolina, visiting abandoned mines and quarries & the local ruby mines. Everywhere the family stopped they had their eyes glued to the ground looking for gems. Florida was their "stomping grounds" where they visited caves to collect calcite specimens and other areas in search of fossils.

In the late 1950s, they drove down to "Ballast Point" in Tampa Bay in search of agatized coral geodes and dug up hundreds of pounds of it. In those days, nobody bothered with a bunch of people digging up Tampa Bay for "rocks". They probably thought the rocks were in our heads. She cut and polished a considerable number of geodes, but there was more than one lifetime of material to work on. She won many ribbons and trophies for displays of her collections while a member of the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club. She earned her bachelor's in Geology at the newly opened University of South Florida. She worked with the Florida Geological Survey Department in Tallahassee while earning a master's degree in Hydrogeology at FSU. She was offered the position of State Geologist, but at the time, the environmental movement was just getting started. She moved to New York to work with an environmental consulting firm, Fred C Hart & Associates who was the prime contractor involved in the groundwater assessment at Love Canal in Niagra Falls, New York. Sandy was a key member of the project team and provided expert testimony to the US Congress.

Sandy passed away recently and would be pleased to know that the enormous amount of agatized coral they mined would be used by our club. The FGCGMS sends our condolences and thanks you Greg for honoring your sister's memory with your donation to our club.

## Local News

**April 18th Meeting Minutes:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted & approved. There were 23 members in attendance. Fletch noted that the address on one document was incorrect. Sean will make the change. Shop Report: The wire wrapping class will begin at the end of the month. KC will teach the faceting class and the cost will be \$175. She will be meeting with Sean to discuss the details. The initial “The refrigerator door program” went well with 6 or 7 members showing the variety of work they’ve done in the last quarter. Thank you all for bringing in the beautiful pieces you created! The next “refrigerator door program” will be in July. The Baltimore/Washington field trip being organized by Karen Warseck is May 18-24. Please contact Karen for additional information. Don Dietz is still not feeling well. Please keep him in your thoughts. The tri-county picnic is June 3<sup>rd</sup> at TY Park. Please see our website for complete details. Club member Darlene Harris gave a fun & interesting presentation on Fairy Stones found in Virginia. The silent movie with music was classic! Thank you Darlene for a wonderful evening! The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.



## Past Rock Stars – A Look Back (from page 1)

In rare cases Alexandrite may be chatoyant. Alexandrite is cut in a variety of shapes to minimize waste. The best shape is determined by the cutter, who will orient the stone to show the strongest color change through the crown. Most Alexandrite gemstones weigh less than 1 carat. Stones weighing over 3 carats are considered rare and are very expensive. The Smithsonian has a green & red Alexandrite that is 65 carats. Larger stones have been reported but there is conflicting information.

Alexandrite is found in Russia, Sri-Lanka, Tanzania, Madagascar & Brazil. It is the birthstone for June and for the 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Meta-physically Alexandrite promotes concentration, clear - thinking, evokes excellence and is considered a bridge from the physical world to the spiritual world. This two-toned gemstone is a true rock star!



*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.alexandrite.net](http://www.alexandrite.net), Bing Images & Wikipedia*

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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](http://www.bocamuseum.org/theartschool) or [facebook.com/bocaschool](https://facebook.com/bocaschool) or call at 561-392-2503.

**The Last Word**



Pele known for power, passion & jealousy is the Goddess of Fire, Lightning, Wind & Volcanoes and the Creator of the Hawaiian Islands. Born from the female spirit Haumea & descendant of Sky Father, her spirit lives in Kilauea.



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**THINGS TO REMEMBER**  
 The June 2018 meeting is Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.  
 The date of the next tri-county picnic is Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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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