



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society

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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 September meeting is **Wednesday, September 20th at 7:30pm**. Our presentation will be on fossils by West Palm Beach club member Alan Meltzer. Alan is very knowledgeable and has an extensive collection to show.

Rock Star of the Month is Kyanite !!!

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

Tri-County Picnic Postponed The Tri-County picnic scheduled for Sunday, September 24th at TY Park has been postponed due to hurricane damage. The county does not feel the park will be ready. A new date will be released once the park is cleaned up.

Our Rock Star – A Look Back

In the past we discussed one of the greatest & most popular "Rock Stars" on the planet - Ruby. The name alone sound like a rock star -Ruby. Ruby's history goes way back in time. It's believed to have been discovered by Paleolithic man in Burma. It's been written about in the Bible, the Writings of Sanskrit and by Theophrastus & Pliny the Elder. Its name comes from the Latin "ruber", meaning red. It's the most precious of the 4 precious gemstones. Ruby is 1 of 3 gemstones from the Corundum family. (Ruby, Sapphire & Padparadscha)

Ruby is the red to pink variety of Corundum. Corundum (Aluminum Oxide) is a rock forming mineral found in Igneous, Metamorphic & Sedimentary rocks. Rubies are found in Marble, Basalt, Pegmatite, Mica & Zoisite. Ruby's red color comes from Chromium & its crystal formation.

Ruby has a hexagonal (6 sided) crystal structure. Rubies are fluorescent, glowing bright red. They have a Mohs hardness of 9, a specific gravity of 3.77 to 4.05 and a pearly vitreous luster. They can also show chatoyancy or asterism. Chatoyancy is "the cat's eye effect" where a cabachoned stone emits a luminous streak. Asterism is "star effect" in a cabachoned stone. These occur in Rubies because of needle-like rutile crystals within the stone, known as "silk". Silk helps identify genuine Rubies.

Since Pliny the Elder, jewelers & gem cutters have found ways to enhance poorer quality Rubies. This includes heat treating, which can reduce silk & improve color and lead-glass filling; a treatment that involves melting lead glass powder into the fissures of a low quality stone. (Cont'd on Page 3)

“Diamonds Are Forever”

Diamonds weren't always used for wedding rings. Simple rings designated marriage from Roman times. Colored gemstones were more popular until DeBeers came into existence. Founded in 1888 by Cecil Rhodes & Alfred Beit & named after 2 Dutch brothers who sold their farm after an 83C diamond was found on it, DeBeers became synonymous with diamonds. The wealthy owned & wore them but the Depression plummeted sales. DeBeers first campaign showed movie stars swathed in diamonds; sales rose 50% in 3 years. In 1947 Frances Gerety of N.W. Ayers & Son created the famous slogan “A Diamond is Forever” which solidified DeBeers sales. TV campaigns in the early 90's continued the effort. In truth, DeBeers was ruthless in business. They controlled 90% of the world diamond market & manipulated prices by forcing independent dealers to join their cartel or they would flood the dealer's market dropping prices. They purchased & stockpiled diamonds from other mfg.'s to limit supply. In 2000 DeBeers business model was forced to change due to Canada's & Australia's decision to sell diamonds outside DeBeers channels & to avoid bad publicity due to world awareness of mining conditions from the movie “Blood Diamond”. In 2013 DeBeers market share was approximately 33%..



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 Trade Shows

September 22-24—JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA:

The Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society 29th Annual Show, Morocco Shrine Center; 3800 Saint Johns Bluff Rd South, Jacksonville, 32224; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Children Free. Demonstrations, Special Exhibits, Moon Rock ! www.jaxgem&mineral.org

October 6-8—ORLANDO, FLORIDA:

The Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society Annual Show, National Guard Armory; 2809 South Fern Creek Ave. Orlando, 32806; Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Students \$2; . Go to www.cfmgms.org for \$1 off coupon. There will be demonstrations, 30 minute auctions, kids table, sluce mining for gems, and hourly door prizes. See and buy gems, minerals, beads, metaphysical stones, fossils and much more from all over the world. Scouts can earn merit badges from a mineral gemologist to assist with identification and requirements. www.cfmgms.org

Local News

August 16th Meeting Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The minutes of the July meeting were revised to note that Ed & Pat Rosbury should be contacted about participating in the wire-wrapping class. There were 20 members and 4 guests in attendance. Thank you Ariel Helman for bringing the refreshments! Shop Report: We need your support. Please try to schedule time to use the shop or if you haven't taken a class, this is a great time to do it. Your participation helps pay the rent on the shop. All classes are available; please speak with Steve. Suggestions on ways to raise funds to help support the shop, such as selling items in Itsy were discussed. If you have ideas, please let Sean know. The next tri-county picnic is Sunday, September 24th. **(The picnic has been postponed due to park damage.)** Our field trip organizer, Darlene Harris discussed a trip to Quartzite, AZ to mine & attend the Tyson Wells Sell-a-Rama. If you would like to know more about it, please contact Darlene at stay@limpkinlodge.com. Our presentation was the movie The Diamond Story . The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.



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


Most inexpensive Rubies have been filled and/or heat treated, which can be evident by using a loupe to look for gas bubbles. There is nothing wrong with these practices, as long as the buyer understands what they're getting. Treating Rubies makes them more affordable for many people. If the jewelry store explains the process, most people will understand why some Rubies are less expensive than others.

Synthetic Rubies were first made in 1837 without much success. Over the next 50 years the procedure was improved. Today 75% of synthetic Rubies are used for industry; primarily lasers, masers, electronics & bearings because of their hardness, durability & wave transmitting properties. Synthetic rubies used in jewelry produce a flawless stone and can be identified by microscopic analysis.

A Ruby's price is determined similar to a diamond, by the 4 C's: Color, Clarity, Cut & Carat. A Ruby's color & clarity of deep "pigeon blood" red will be the most valuable. Rubies are found in Myanmar (Burma), Australia, Mozambique, Thailand, Madagascar and in the United States in North & South Carolina, Montana & Wyoming. In Franklin, North Carolina, you can mine for Rubies & other gemstones at "dig for fee" mines. If you're lucky, you'll find a few nice stones that can be cut into jewelry and you can be a "Rock Star" !



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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.**



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

As much of a problem & inconvenience that it was to prepare for the storm, stress about the possible outcome and have to deal with no power for an extended amount of time; we were blessed the worst part didn't hit us. There will be those in some areas who lost everything. This is a great time to donate what you can. We were blessed.



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THINGS TO REMEMBER

The October 2017 meeting is **Wednesday, October 18th** at 7:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.

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.**

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