



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society

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Take I-95 to Pembroke Road, (Exit 19), go West 1/2 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!

Monthly Meeting – GOLD GOLD GOLD March 20 at 7:30 PM

The meeting this month will be by Mr. Craine who will be speaking on GOLD. In addition to other gold related subjects, Mr. Craine will discuss such things as gold mining and how to differentiate between different carats of gold. If you like gold, this is not the meeting to miss!

Editorial Assistant Needed for April and June.

Our newsletter editor will be out of state in April and early June and will not be able to do a newsletter. We need someone to produce the newsletter for the months of April and June. If no one volunteers, there will be no newsletter. To make editing the newsletter easier for the volunteer, the newsletter skeleton will be provided as well as articles to include for those months. Editorial Assistant will have to collect and type in the information on the May and July programs, copy the article into the newsletter, copy or type in the meeting minutes from Sue Anderson and add any miscellaneous news. The newsletter then would be formatted and the Inside This Issue pages numbered. The newsletter would be distributed by Julio who is database Manager. Good knowledge of Word is essential.

February Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.

Sean had a medical emergency and could not attend the meeting. Don presided over the meeting.

Program

The planned speaker, KC, had a death in the family and had to cancel her presentation. Because of this, the program became a member participation discussion. Since the February birthstone is amethyst, several members brought in amethyst samples including geodes from Karen and Dick. Evan displayed some agate and Marcel (?) and Adrian showed orchids and orchid spikes. Dick brought hematite earrings, Sue presented some wire wrapping and Toni showed trimerite (nuclear waste). Lucus did a fabulous impromptu presentation on the stones he was working on. He showed the stones, gave descriptions of where the rocks were from and talked a little about the geography of each piece. Julio donated a book from his library. All in all, it was an excellent meeting.

Editorial

Last month, with the unfortunate last minute cancellation of the speaker and Sean's emergency that did not allow him to bring the movie replacement, we were without a program.

What looked like a disaster in the making became one of our more educational evenings due to off-the-cuff presentations by club members on all sorts of stones. We also had displays of finished work by other members of the club. I was extremely impressed by the club members who stood up and gave us a meeting to remember. Based on the extensive knowledge Lucas showed when he spoke totally unprepared, without notes or PowerPoint presentation, I'm really hoping that he can be prevailed upon to do a whole meeting!

Remember, if you need to reach me, send all emails to kwarseck@gmail etc. with ROCK CLUB somewhere in the subject line.

Karen L. Warseck
Editor

kwarseck@gmail.com

General Meeting

Minutes were approved and accepted.

23 people were in attendance, and we had two guests.

The Treasury has \$4888.18 in the bank account and \$550.00 in petty cash.

The shop fixed two wheels on the machines, and everything will be in working order shortly.

Committee Chairs were announced as follows:

Susan and Lucus are Program Chairs

Karen and Jeff are Newsletter.

Julio and Bo are Membership.

Don and Lucus are Shop.

Julio is the Database Manager

Ariel is the Refreshments Chair

Dick is the Quiz Master.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

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 Lapidary Shop Learn how to cabochon or facet a gemstone by our experts, for nominal fee. Once you learn, the shop is available for use, for a small charge.

Library The Les & Marge DeGarmo Library at the Lapidary Shop has a variety of books & magazines on dealing with rocks, gems, minerals or jewelry making.

Outside Our Area The Southeast Federation website lists Rock & Gem Clubs & lapidary & jewelry schools that you can contact to visit.

The Lapidary Shop is Open!

Our lapidary shop is open Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM & Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The shop is located at 33 East Acre Dr, Suite 33, Plantation, 33317; this is just west of the Turnpike off Broward Blvd.

The Shop is only open to paid members of FGCGMS. Children under 16 may not use the shop unless accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Classes are available for the following skills: Cabochon making (cabbing), Faceting, Solderless Stone Setting.

Tips And Tricks

Brad Smith bench tips 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>

Southeast Federation Mineralogical Societies

SFMS Week June 2-8, 2024 at William Holland

Classes Available: Cabs II, Stone on Stone, Intarsia I & II, Moovin Metals, Leather Bi-Metal Bracelet, Acid Etching/Enamel, Silver Metal Clay, Stained Glass, Faceting I & II

Wait Listed : Cabs I, Casting, Silver I



SFMS week is different from the normal weeks at William Holland. During SFMS Weeks top priority is given to members of the SFMS. SFMS members are scheduled before anyone else. That makes it easier to schedule the class you want! In fact, you are

encouraged to suggest classes for the next year in order to secure the best instructors possible. This is an excellent opportunity for members to refresh their skills or learn new ones to prepare them to teach classes in the club!

Since this week is designed for SFMS members, everyone there has something in common. Friendships are made that last a lifetime. While one way to establish those friendships is in the classroom, another is through the social activities during the week. There are evening activities that include demonstrations, an auction and tailgating. Suggestions for additional activities are welcome.

March Birthstone - Aquamarine



Named after the color of seawater, aquamarine is the blue to blue-green member of the beryl family. Readily available and moderately priced, the March birthstone makes an excellent jewelry stone. In addition to being the birthstone for March, aquamarine traditionally commemorates a 19th wedding anniversary.

Symbolism

The name "aquamarine" comes from the Latin for "seawater", and the stones were thought to protect seafarers. Some associate aquamarines with marital happiness and superior intellect.

Color

Aquamarine has been famous throughout history for its clear blue color, which often displays some green. The striking blue hue characteristic of the aquamarine variety comes from iron. Aquamarine is an inherently light crystal that does not achieve especially dark tones or saturations. The color of a select few of the darkest stones may be comparable to the blue of sapphire, but aquamarine is generally much lighter.



Because the color of the March birthstone is intensified by the size of the crystal, small aquamarine gems will often have lighter tones and saturations than larger ones. Typically, stones must weigh at least five carats to achieve the best, most intense blue and green hues. However, there are some sources, many of which are found in Africa, producing gems with stronger than typical saturations. These can be smaller but still have attractively intense colors.

Clarity

The clarity of aquamarine can fall anywhere on the spectrum from purely transparent to opaque. The overwhelming majority of faceted gemstones used in jewelry are transparent. While raw transparent aquamarine crystals may have some liquid inclusions present, most of the stones on the market are eye-clean. Transparent gems which have numerous noticeable inclusions or internal fractures are not as valuable as those without these features.



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Transparent gems which have numerous noticeable inclusions or internal fractures are not as valuable as those without these features. However, aquamarine with inclusions or less than transparent clarity are still useful. A few gems feature parallel inclusions which are plentiful enough to create a stunning and highly sought-after cat's eye effect. Alternatively, stones of any clarity grading can become beads. They can also be polished into rounded cabochon shapes. Additionally, aquamarine is a popular gemstone choice for carvers. All types of crystals from transparent to opaque can become exceptional and unique artistic carvings and figurines.

In fact, a relatively high percentage of the aquamarine crystals harvested have so much usable gem-quality material that they can yield faceted gems that are simply too large to be practical for use in jewelry.



Gem descriptions are excerpted from various Gem Profiles and other articles included in the International Gem Society Learning Center and are used with permission.

IF YOU HAVE ARRANGED A SPEAKER FOR THE CLUB MEETING, PLEASE BE SURE ALL OF THE INFORMATION NOTED BELOW IS INCLUDED.

Email the form to the newsletter editor at kwarseck@gmail.com

Month the speaker will be speaking:

First Name

Last Name

Title or Self Identifier: (for example rock hound, Geologist, whatever the person calls him/her self.)
(no more than five words)

Type self description here.

Title of program:

Short paragraph on content of presentation

Type paragraph in this box.

Biographical information on presenter:

Type bio here.

Phone number of speaker in case further information is needed

Name of person submitting this form

Club Info

Club's Email: fgcgms18@gmail.com

Club's Website: <http://www.fgcgms.com>

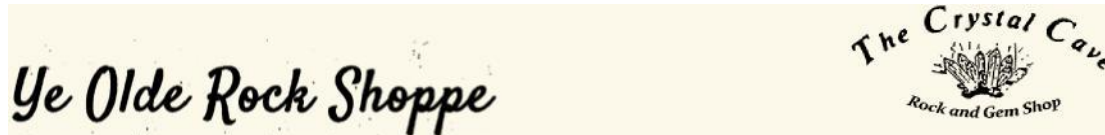
Federation Website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

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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](#).
www.bocamuseum.org/theartschool or
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