



# The Golden Nugget

## The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society



May 2024, Vol. 28 Issue 1

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### Monthly Meeting and happenings: May 22nd 2024 at 7:30 PM

The minutes to the May's meeting were not available to this editor. This month was a month with lots happenings.

1. Karen Warseck was to complete the May newsletter but she could not in her final days.
2. Sean Branigan our president resigned shortly after the tri-county picnic. Our Bylaws require officers to elect an interim president until the next elections in November. This selection will occur in the June meeting
3. A lot of members and officers went on vacation and did not attend.



Therefore, the May newsletter was not generated and is an attempt to produce something in Karen's honor.

This month's program will be presented Lucas Bush - Shop Foremen will introduce us to rock tumbling. Rotary tumblers rotate with stones and grit within them. The grit polished the stones much faster than mother nature to produce beautiful shape and polished stones.

Additionally a movie on Tanzanite the mineral will be presented.

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!



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### Editorial

Prior to the monthly meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> the club had what I would call a successful tri-county club picnic.

Even though it started a bit bumpy. 🤔

Why do I call it successful?

We had in attendance well over 50 members from Miami, Broward and Palm Beach clubs. At least eight members sold their rocks and minerals. The club was able to pay for cost of the shelter from the raffle, bingo and club sales.

The food tasted great and I personally met some great people from the other clubs and this one. See picture below, our favorite visitor. Maybe he wanted in on the raffle, sloppy joe or the garnets? - LOL

Thank you for attending even to the Iguana. See you at the next one in September.

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### 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 have 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. Check them out literally!!

**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 (cabbings), Faceting, and Solderless Stone Setting.



Picnic Visitor



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### Tips And Tricks

Brad Smith bench tips are available at

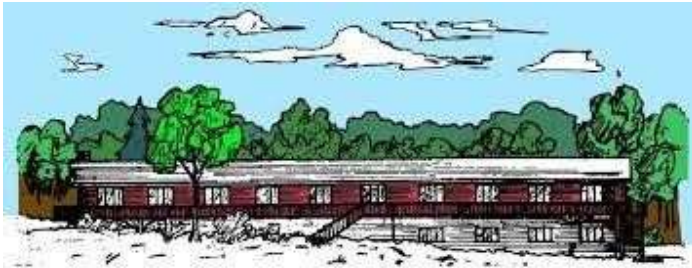
[facebook.com/benchtips](https://www.facebook.com/benchtips) or [groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips).

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.



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### May Birthstone – Emerald (Source GIA)

Emerald, the birthstone for May, has been beloved for millennia, evoking rebirth and renewal. Widely regarded as the definition of green, emerald is the perfect color for spring. From the poetic description of Ireland as “the Emerald Isle” to the vibrant green of the famed gemstone itself—the May birthstone emerald has captured hearts and minds through the ages.

Variations of this rich green color suggest soothing, lush gardens. Legend has it that emerald has the power to make its wearer more intelligent and quick-witted, and it was once believed to cure diseases like cholera and malaria. Today, it's also the gemstone given for the 20th and 35th wedding anniversaries.

Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of **beryl**, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color presents itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist.

The deeper or more green an emerald is, the more valuable it is. The rarest emerald gemstones will appear to be an intense green-blue color.

Emerald gems are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.





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### Emerald Birthstone Meaning & History

From Egyptian pharaohs to Inca emperors, emerald has enchanted royalty. Cleopatra was known to have a passion for emerald and used it in her royal adornments. The legendary Crown of the Andes, fashioned in colonial South America, is one example of how the Spanish revered the May birthstone. According to lore, its largest stone—now called the Atahualpa emerald—was taken from the last Inca emperor, Atahualpa, by conquistador Francisco Pizarro. The emerald and gold treasures recovered from the sunken 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* represent a small fraction of the colonial riches sent to Spain from the New World.

An emerald cross and gold rosary recovered from the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* shipwreck.

The word “emerald” comes from *smaragdus*, ancient Greek for a “green gem”. Roman author Pliny the Elder, who died in the 79 CE eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, wrote in his encyclopedic *Natural History* that “nothing greens greener.” He also stated that the May birthstone had therapeutic properties that helped gem cutters: “(they) have no better method of restoring their eyes than by looking at the emerald, its soft, green color comforting and removing their weariness and lassitude.” Science now proves this belief: The color green relieves stress and eye strain. The green birthstone was also thought to have magical powers. By placing it under the tongue, one could see into the future. Some believed it made one an eloquent speaker and exposed lovers who made false promises. The Crown of the Andes boasts an impressive 24 ct emerald center stone and 442 additional emeralds set in the intricately crafted golden headpiece.



Courtesy: Eileen Weatherbee. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA



Photo: the Metropolitan Museum of Art



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### Where are Emeralds Found?

Colombia has been the source of the finest emeralds for more than 500 years, and Colombian emeralds are the standard by which all others are measured. Three mining sites in Colombia are particularly noteworthy: Muzo, Chivor and Coscuez. Each locality produces a range of colors but, generally speaking, darker tones of pure green emeralds come from Muzo. Emeralds that are lighter in tone and slightly bluish green are associated with Chivor. Slightly yellowish green emeralds are unearthed in Coscuez.



The lush green Andes Mountains tower over the deep tropical valleys around Muzo. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

The May birthstone is also found in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. One of the most productive sites for the green birthstone is the sophisticated Belmont mine. Capoeirana is another important locality, a rugged region worked largely by independent miners and small-scale operations.

The May birthstone can also be found in Africa. Zambia is a major source, and mines in the Ndola Rural Restricted Area are known for producing emeralds that are bluish green and darker in tone. Pakistan and Afghanistan are important producers as well.



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### Geology of Emeralds/Nerdy Stuff

Emeralds are known to form in three ways.

1. The Columbian Emeralds are formed through a process called “Metasomatism”. This process involved hydrothermal fluids traveling through the host sedimentary rocks. These rocks are folded and faulted dark shales, limestones and marls. These fluids change and alter the host rock to form the emeralds. Closely associated minerals forming the emerald gangue are: calcite, dolomite, parisite, pyrite, quartz, barite, fluorite, and apatite. With the last three being very rare also. The emerald occurs as six-sided prisms with base, some with rarer forms also.
2. Other Emeralds throughout the world form in Pegmatites. Pegmatites are plutonic igneous rocks that can contain gaseous fluids trapped within them. These pockets of trapped fluids allowed for crystallization of exotic minerals and rare earth elements to form larger than normal crystals.
3. Still other emeralds in the world as the North Carolina Emeralds occur in quartz veins found in highly altered metamorphic rocks call migmatites. These vein containing migmatites also contained trapped fluids with the right chemistries to form the emeralds. Although this process very similar to number two it is thought that, the higher temperatures and pressures also play a role in the crystallization of emeralds.



*Emeralds in place in Muzo, Boyca, Colombia*



Granite pegmatite (Crabtree Pegmatite, North Carolina, USA). It has emerald (green), schorl tourmaline (black crystals), quartz (glassy, brownish-gray), and feldspar (grayish-white).



Metamorphic Schist Emerald, Local Unknown



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**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 [juliolp2059@gmail.com](mailto:juliolp2059@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/herself.)  
(no more than five words)*

---

*Type self-description here:*

---

**Title of Program:**

---

**Short paragraph on content of presentation:**

---

**Biographical information on presenter:**

---

**Phone number of speaker in case further information is needed:**

---

**Name of person submitting this form:**





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### Club Info:

Club's Email: [fgcgms18@gmail.com](mailto:fgcgms18@gmail.com)

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

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

Mailing Address: 6254 NW 102 Way, Parkland, FL 33076

### List of Officers:

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## Advertisers:

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