



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast
Gem and Mineral Society



June 2024, Vol. 29 Issue 1

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Monthly Meeting and happenings

Last month's meeting - *May 15th*, 7:30 PM

Minutes were taken by Bobby Allen.
Approved and accepted, by Don Titman

20 people attended, and we had 2 Guests.

Included with the 20 members were 3 new members. Three new members were introduced Nyoka Archibald
Mary Swanson
And Crystal Swanson

The Treasury has \$4106.56 in the bank account and \$450.00 in petty cash.



Stratovolcanoes

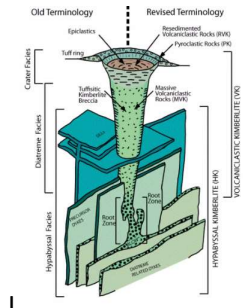


Illustration of Kimberlite pipes

Shop Report – Don indicated the need for two new wheels for cabbng machine

Last Month's program speaker was Dick Haliburton. Dick's unscripted chat was on volcanoes. He clearly has seen and climbed his share of volcanoes from Mounts Kenya, Longonot, Kilimanjaro, and Ngorongoro Crater in East Africa, Vesuvius in Italy and Etna in Sicily, and a whole range of volcanoes in the western USA's Cascade Range, including Mounts St Helens and Hood, and Crater Lake,

He presented a concise explanation of the different types of volcanoes. More importantly, Dick connected volcanoes with underground explosive pipes, Kimberlites and the gem quality diamond they produce.

This presentation was super instructional and we look forward to listening from Dick again. Thank you Dick

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

This month's program will be presented by owner's of the St. Maarten Garnet Company.

Jeol, Viky and Anathasia will present their beautiful art and jewelry on the all the Almandine garnets found in St. Maarten. Prepare to be fascinated.

<https://www.worldgarnet.com/>



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 Shoppe will be on the left 50 feet up.

Visitors & Members are encouraged to attend!



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Editorial

This issue is dedicated to Karen Warseck, our long time member, one time president and editor. I do hope that I do her justice in putting together this newsletter and editorial.

Karen Warseck recently passed and succumbed to her illness and she will be truly missed by this club.

Karen stood for and loved everything this club stands for, rocks and mineral, lapidary arts, Jewelry (necklaces).

On her death, she donated some of her equipment to our lapidary shop. Karen loved this club and actively participated as editor, writing by-laws and giving the club chats. Bobby Allen fondly remembers one chat in which she kept the group enthralled by her presentation on jade.

Thank you Karen for your contributions to this club. You will be missed but not forgotten.

Temp Editorial Assistant
Julio Lopez
Juliolp2059@gmail.com

Get Involved!

The Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society offers a variety of ways that you can become involved within the club.

Club Picnic

Our Tri county Club picnic will be held Sunday September 28 at TY Park pavilion #9 at 10 am to 3pm. WPB, Miami & Ft Lauderdale clubs will be there. Please bring your own table for your sales and a side dish or desert of any kind.

The Broward club will bring a Roast Beef, Miami will bring Ham, and west Palm beach will bring Turkey.

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. Additionally see the new section below

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.

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

Library The Les & Marge DeGarmo Library

The Lapidary Shop has a variety of books & magazines on dealing with rocks, gems, minerals or jewelry making. Check them out literally!!

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.



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June Birthstones - Pearl

If you were born in the month of June, you are lucky enough to have three birthstones to call your own. June is one of only three months (the others are August and December) that has three birthstones, giving you a variety of beautiful birthstone choices. The June birthstones are pearl, alexandrite and moonstone.



Pearl Birthstone & History

This enchanting June birthstone originates from oceans, lakes and rivers around the world. It is a timeless wardrobe staple, beloved by women of all ages. The origin of pearls fascinated our forebears. Ancients from the Middle East believed that pearls were teardrops fallen from heaven. The Chinese fancied that the June birthstone came from the brain of a dragon. Christopher Columbus and his contemporaries thought that mollusks formed pearls from dew drops.

Pearls are organic gems that grow inside the tissue of a living saltwater or freshwater mollusk (either an oyster or a mussel). Natural pearls form when the mollusk secretes a substance called nacre around an irritant such as a piece of sand or a parasite that has invaded its shell. Cultured pearls are a product of human intervention. Technicians implant a piece of mantle tissue alone (common for freshwater cultured pearls) or with a mother-of-pearl shell bead (all-saltwater) into a host mollusk. The mollusk covers the irritant with nacre, just like a natural pearl. Cultured pearls are raised in pearl farms – saltwater or freshwater operations where the mollusks are cleaned, protected from predators and eventually harvested. Thousands of years of pearl fishing have decimated the natural pearl beds, so cultured pearls account for the vast majority of pearl sales today. These cultured pearl birthstones come in a dazzling array of sizes, colors and shapes.





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Cartier set Elizabeth Taylor's historic 50.56 ct La Peregrina pearl as part of the pendant to this two-strand pearl, ruby and diamond necklace. Courtesy: Christie's

Pearls have long been associated with purity, humility and innocence. So it may be said that the June birthstone meaning is "sweet simplicity." As such, pearls were traditionally given as a wedding gift.

The pearl birthstone was also thought to have beneficial properties. In the ancient Sanskrit text the Atharvaveda, pearls were said to bestow long life and prosperity. In Asia, pearls were believed to help alleviate indigestion and hemorrhages. Some 19th century Arab physicians maintained that pearl powder improved eyesight, quieted nervous tremors and eased depression.

One of the most famous natural pearls is the 50.56 carat (ct) La Peregrina. About the size of a pigeon's egg, the drop shaped pearl was discovered in the 1500s in the Gulf of Panama. It became a prized possession of European royalty. Richard Burton eventually gifted it to Elizabeth Taylor in 1969; Christie's New York auctioned the Cartier necklace containing La Peregrina for \$11.8 million in 2011.

Geology Of Pearls

Pearls are made of Calcite mineral (Calcium Carbonate). Mollusk bivalves, like clams generate their protective homes (shells) from calcite. When an irritant such as a small sand particle, becomes lodged inside the mantle lobe and shell of the bivalve, the bivalve secretes layered platelets of aragonite, calcite or both around the irritant and this forms the pearl with enough layers and time. The layers are usually concentric

Where are pearls found?

Warm waters... clear skies... dramatic scenery – it sounds like a dream beach vacation, don't you think? It's also an accurate description of where you'll often find these pearl birthstones. Pearl-bearing mollusks fail to thrive in polluted waters, so pearl farms are usually located far from civilization – and often in breathtaking settings.

Saltwater cultured pearls are grown in many areas around the world. Akoya cultured pearl farms are primarily found in Japan and China, especially along the southern coasts of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. South Sea cultured pearls are farmed from the northern coast of Australia through Indonesia to the southern coast of Southeast Asia, with large operations in the Philippines as well. The Gambier Islands and the Tuamotu Archipelago, both part of French Polynesia, are two locales where the rich black Tahitian pearls are cultured. China is the dominant source of freshwater cultured pearls.



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June Birthstones (continued)– Alexandrite

Alexandrite is the rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl that changes color in different lighting. Most prized are those alexandrite birthstones that show a vivid green to bluish green in daylight or fluorescent light, and an intense red to purplish red in incandescent light. Major alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. The gem was named after the young Alexander II (1818–1881), heir apparent to the throne. Alexandrite caught the country's attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

When certain types of long, thin inclusions are oriented parallel to each other in this June birthstone, they can create another phenomenon, called chatoyancy or the cat's-eye effect. Few gems are as fascinating or as stunning as cat's-eye alexandrite.



This 7.19-ct alexandrite (as it appears in fluorescent, left, and incandescent, right, illumination) is from the Tunduru region of Tanzania. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

Where is Alexandrite found?

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits were eventually mined out, and now most alexandrite comes from Brazil, Sri Lanka and East Africa. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the 19th century Russian alexandrites. Because of its scarcity, especially in larger, fine-quality alexandrite is one of the more expensive colored gems.



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Chrysoberyl (alexandrite) mining at corrego do Fogo near Malacacheta, Brazil. Courtesy: ICA

Alexandrite (Chrysoberyl)

Alexandrite (Chrysoberyl) Care and Cleaning

This June birthstone is relatively hard—8.5 on the Mohs scale. It has excellent toughness and no cleavage, which is a tendency to break when struck. This makes it a good choice for rings and other mountings subject to daily wear. An alexandrite engagement ring would be a unique gift for a bride-to-be born in June. Although it is best to clean your June birthstone in warm, soapy water, ultrasonic and steam cleaners are usually safe as well.



GIA.edu

Alexandrite and diamond ring handcrafted with a 5.16 carat oval alexandrite center stone accented with 0.57 carats of round alexandrites and 0.74 carats of brilliant diamond rounds set in platinum. RO1005-ALOV - Platinum, Alexandrite, Oval, 5.16ct. Courtesy: Omi Privé

June is a month for celebrations, be it weddings, anniversaries, graduations or birthdays. And what better way to celebrate than with a June birthstone. Those who were born in June are lucky to have



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three gorgeous birthstones to choose from. Now you know how to pick one of these June birthstones for yourself or a loved one born in the month of June.

Geology of Alexandrite (chrysoberyl), source MiamiMining



Chrysoberyl is a rare and highly prized gemstone that has been prized for centuries for its stunning beauty and durability. Despite its popularity, however, many people may not be aware of the interesting geology behind this gemstone. In this blog post, we will explore the formation, occurrence, and characteristics of chrysoberyl in a geological context.

Chrysoberyl is a type of silicate mineral that is composed of beryllium, aluminum, and oxygen. It is a member of the beryl family, which also includes emerald, aquamarine, and morganite. Chrysoberyl is unique among these gemstones in that it has a distinct yellow-green to brownish-yellow color, which is caused by the presence of chromium and iron impurities.

Chrysoberyl is typically found in metamorphic and igneous rocks (pegmatites), which are formed through the heat and pressure of tectonic activity. Like gold and other minerals, it also can be deposited in alluvial deposits, through the erosion and transport of rocks and minerals by water.

One of the most notable occurrences of chrysoberyl is in the Ural Mountains of Russia, where it is found in metamorphic rocks such as mica schist and gneiss formations. It is also found in other parts of Europe, as well as in Brazil, Madagascar, and Sri Lanka. In the United States, chrysoberyl can be found in Alabama, California, and Virginia.

In terms of its physical characteristics, chrysoberyl is known for its exceptional hardness and durability. It has a hardness of 8.5 on the Mohs scale, which makes it one of the hardest gemstones. It is also highly resistant to scratching, which makes it a popular choice for use in jewelry.

Chrysoberyl has a distinct crystal structure, which is characterized by its hexagonal shape. The crystals are typically small, and they often occur in aggregates, which can give the gemstone a cloudy or milky appearance.



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There are two main types of chrysoberyl: ordinary chrysoberyl and cat's eye chrysoberyl. Ordinary chrysoberyl is the more common form of the gemstone, and it is characterized by its yellow-green to brownish-yellow color. Cat's eye chrysoberyl, on the other hand, is much rarer and is characterized by a distinctive chatoyancy, or "cat's eye" effect, which is caused by tiny, parallel inclusions that reflect light in a specific way.

In addition to its use as a gemstone, chrysoberyl has a number of other interesting uses and properties. It is used in the manufacture of high-quality abrasives, and it is also used as a refractory material, which means it can withstand high temperatures and is resistant to melting.

Overall, chrysoberyl is a fascinating and unique gemstone that has a rich and varied geological history. Its exceptional hardness, durability, and beauty make it a highly prized gemstone that is sought after by collectors and jewelry enthusiasts around the world. So, next time you see a piece of chrysoberyl jewelry, take a moment to appreciate the interesting geology behind this beautiful gemstone.





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June Birthstones (continued)– Moonstone

source <http://geologylearn.blogspot.com/>



Moonstone is the most well-known **gemstone** of the **feldspar group**. Named for its glowing color sheen that resembles the moonlight, **Moonstone** can belong to several different members of the feldspar group, especially Orthoclase and Oligoclase. Moonstone displays a unique play of color known as adularescence. This effect is in the form of a moving floating light or sheen. This phenomenon is caused by structural anomalies within the crystal formation.

History and Introduction

Moonstone is the most well-known gemstone variety of orthoclase feldspar, a potassium aluminum silicate. It is a transparent to opaque oligoclase, a variety of plagioclase albite and sheet mica. Moonstone is known to exhibit a distinct sheen under certain lighting conditions, and it is the sheen which renders moonstone one of the most remarkable gemstones available today. In fact, its name is owed to the almost magical, bluish white shimmer it exhibits, which closely resembles that of the moon. Gemologists refer to the shimmering optical phenomena as 'adularescence'.

The optical effect of adularescence is a result of moonstone's unique structural pattern. Tiny inclusions of albite, a sodium aluminum silicate are intermixed with host rock layers of orthoclase, a potassium aluminum silicate. The alternating layers of different feldspars form a lamellar (scaly) structure which causes the interference of light as it enters the stone. Thin layers of alternating silicates tend to refract more attractive and colorful sheens, whereas thick layers of silicates produce less attractive, white to colorless sheens. As light enters the stone, it is refracted and scattered, producing an extremely unique and attractive play of both color and light. With moonstone, the aura of light actually appears to glow from deep within the surface of the stone.

World-famous Moonstone

Moonstone was extremely popular in the times of "Art Nouveau", which took place more than 100 years ago. It was used to decorate a striking amount of pieces of gemstone jewelry created by the famous French Master-Goldsmith, René Lalique, as well as many of his contemporaries. His rare pieces are typically only found in museums or in well-guarded private collections.

Identifying Moonstone

Moonstone can be identified by the presence of adularescence. Other gems with a similar appearance do not have the phenomenal presence of adularescence that makes identification of moonstone fairly easy. Moonstone is a potassium aluminum silicate and can be easily identified by composition. Many similar materials, such as **labradorite**, are actually plagioclase feldspar, whereas moonstone is by composition a potassium feldspar. Testing for hardness is often one of the easiest methods for distinguishing moonstone from other materials. Other similar gems, such as opal, chalcedony or ammolite, are significantly harder or softer than moonstone.



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Top quality moonstone can show an incredible "three-dimensional" depth of color, which no other gemstone can replicate, making moonstone almost unmistakable.

Moonstone Origin and Gemstone Sources

Moonstone deposits are often found as constituents in feldspar-rich granitic and syenitic pegmatites all over the world. The most important moonstone deposits are from Sri Lanka and India. Other notable sources include Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, Myanmar (Burma), Madagascar, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, Tanzania, and the United States. Sri Lankan moonstone is most famous for its attractive blue colored material, but blue moonstone is becoming increasingly rare. India is known for producing fine 'rainbow moonstone'. Switzerland's Adula Mountains possess the most historically interesting moonstone mines.

Moonstone: Varieties or Similar Gemstones

Moonstone belongs to the large group of feldspar minerals, the most abundant minerals on earth. The feldspars make up approximately 60% of the Earth's crust, which means there are many moonstone-related gems and minerals. Quartz gemstones make up the second most abundant gemstone group, second only to the feldspar family.



Feldspars are typically classified into two main gemstone groups: Potassium feldspar and plagioclase feldspar. All varieties of moonstone are potassium feldspar. Other potassium feldspar gemstones include amazonite and orthoclase. There are also several gemstones which are often confused with moonstone based on appearance alone, such as 'rainbow moonstone'. Rainbow moonstone is actually not a true moonstone, but rather, it is a variety of labradorite plagioclase feldspar. This is why it is sometimes referred to as 'blue-sheen labradorite'.

Most Popular Similar or Related Trade Names & Gemstones:

Star moonstone, cat's eye moonstone, rainbow moonstone and sunstone are the most popular and well-known trade names used for similar or related gemstones.

Lesser-Known Similar or Related Trade Names & Gemstones:

Orthoclase, amazonite, labradorite, andesine, andesine-labradorite and oligoclase are the lesser-known trade names used for similar or related gemstones.



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Properties of Moonstone

Chemical Formula	Plagioclase Feldspar: $(\text{Na,Ca})\text{Al}_{1-2}\text{Si}_{3-2}\text{O}_8$ Orthoclase Feldspar: KAlSi_3O_8
Color	White, Colorless, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Brown, Pink, Purple, Gray
Hardness	6 - 6.5
Refractive Index	1.518 -1.526
SG	2.56 - 2.62
Transparency	Transparent to translucent
Double Refraction	-.0005
Luster	Pearly
Cleavage	2,1 - basal ; 2,1 - prismatic ; 3,1 - pinacoidal
Mineral Class	Orthoclase, Oligoclase, and other members of the feldspar group



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What is it? (New Section of Rock and Minerals Identification)

So you found a rock or mineral, What is it? This new section will give you tips and tools that geologists use to identify rocks and minerals. We hope to keep this section as non-technical as possible.

Tip #1 – Know the location of your find

A geologist immediately wants to know where exactly you found your specimen. Even though a rock or mineral could have been transported long distances by various geologic processes, most rocks are found in place or near nearby their source. By knowing the surrounding geology or exact location a geologist sometimes determine what it is. More importantly rock are classified on their origin (type) Sedimentary, Igneous and Metaphoric. Geologists have mapped out most of the world's outcropping rocks. So yes, knowing the location will significantly help with identification.

Here are some examples.

Found it near Yosemite is more than likely it is a granite.

The Sierra Nevada's and Yosemite are comprised of a giant plutonic rock called granite.

Found it here in South Florida more than likely it is a limestone.

Central Florida and south once were underwater reefs. Ancient reefs and corals are made of calcite the primary mineral of limestones.

Found it in Hawaii, Iceland? Basalt

Magma extruded from volcanic or mid oceanic ridges are fine grained basalts.

Next Month look for tip #2 - color, luster, banding, layering, and grain size.



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Calendar of Events

July 17 th 2024	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
August 21 th 2024	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
September 18 th 2024	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
September 29 th 2024	preliminary schedule for the Tri-county Picnic per Kathryn Foster (KC)
October 16 th , 2024	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting At this meeting, the club will open the officer and board of director nominations to the club membership.
November 20 th 2024	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting At this meeting the club will accept Officer and Board of Directors nominations from the floor, close the nomination process, create the slate of candidates and start election procedure
December 18 th 2028	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting Seven (7) days prior to the December meeting ballots are due. Monthly meeting and Christmas Party The new Officers/Board of Directors, for the upcoming year, will be announced at the December meeting.



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2024 Snack Volunteers

June Ernie & Tove Ashurst
 July Stephanie Struss
 August Ariel Helman
 September Julio Lopez
 October Beverly Norona
 November Need Volunteer(s)
 December Need Volunteer(s)
 Please contact Ariel Helman @ 305-335-4405 for changes or to volunteer

Club Info:

Club's Email: 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:

Function	2 nd Function	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address	2 nd E-mail Address
President					
Vice President	Shop Foreman	Don Titman	305-502-4345	nolewake@yahoo.com	
Shop Foreman	Program Committee	Lucas Bush	954-588-6323	snugglefish22@gmail.com	
Secretary	Program Committee	Susan Anderson	954-559-9198	pochiepawlor@aol.com	pochiepawlor@aol.com
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Game Master / Quiz Committee		Dick Haliburton	954-249-0365	dickhaliburton@gmail.com	
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Newsletter Committee		Jeffrey Gross	954-987-0645	JGrossarchitect@gmail.com	



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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.
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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

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: