



The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter for the
Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society



September 2024, Vol. 32 Issue 1

Next Monthly Meeting:

Our next meeting will be September 18th, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Our presentation will be by Dr. Shawn Willsey, a YouTube Geology professor from Northern Utah University. His first video is on basic Mineral properties. In addition, Julio Lopez will walk you through the new website in case you have suggestions or questions. Please make every effort to attend and bring all your family and guest.

Monthly Meeting Minutes:



- 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

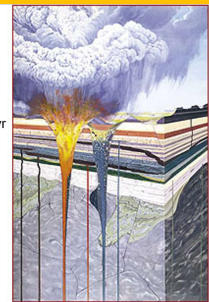
Date: 7/17/2024
Time Start: 7:40pm
Time Ended: 9:30pm
Minutes taken By: Susan Anderson
Previous Months Minutes Accepted by: Julio Lopez
Attending Officers: Julio Lopez - President
 Don Titman - VP
 Susan Anderson - Secretary
 Beverly Norona – Treasurer
Guest/New Members: No Guest
 No New Members

EXPLOSIVE ERUPTIONS

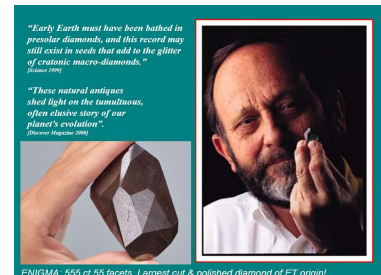
Kimberlites are young
~100 Myr & ~1000 Myr

BUT

Diamonds are old
2.7 – 3.0 Byr!!!!



Kimberlite Depiction



Egnima, Largest Extraterrestrial Diamond

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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- 1-2 Monthly Meeting
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- 8- Crystal Energy
- 9-10 What is it – Tips on rock and mineral identification
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- 14- Advertisers
- 15- Program Presenter form

Treasurer's Report:

Beverly indicated that the bank has 1983.50 and there is \$620.00 in petty case
 Raffle - \$78.00, Coffee \$3.00

Other Notes/ Reports



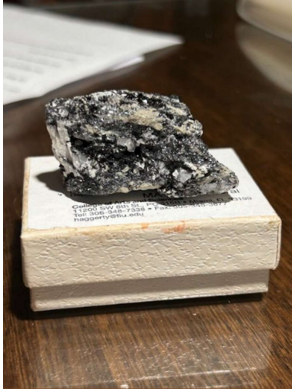
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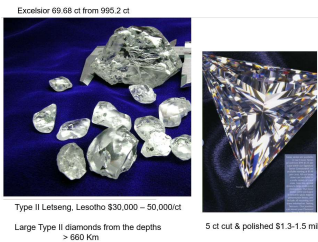


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Monthly Meeting Minutes: (continued)



Babbingtonite



Presentation slides

Shop Report:

The shop is doing well. Some capping wheels were purchased and should last a while. A small saw is giving the shop is having issues but Don is on it. Don Titman talked to the “Honey Hole storage location owners and they indicated that they have an intended use for this space. Therefore, the club must move these rocks from this location. We’ve discussed several options.

1. Have a rock sale to diminish the amount of rocks to be stored. We will be having a rock sale sometime in October.
2. To distribute the rocks amongst members so they can store in their back yard
3. Store in the rock shops back storage and trash area. Lucas Bush indicated that this make be an option,

Committee Reports:

Nothing to report.

Program Presentation By:

Dr. Steven Haggerty of FIU presented on his specialty, titled “**Diamonds, Where, When and Why**”. Dr. Haggerty gave us a fascinating presentation that was easily understood by the layman and with few technical slides. It is no wonder he is a teacher of many years. Dr. Haggerty expertise on diamonds was clearly demonstrated by his style and presentation. Dr. Haggerty gifted the club a beautiful mineral “Babbingtonite”. The sample pictured above and other Babbingtonite samples will be auctioned or raffled at the Christmas party!

On other Agenda topics:

From the last meeting, we continued the conversation of finding Treasurer and Secretary nominees. Julio Lopez also sent an email blast to all members as why we need nominees before November.

On our proposed bylaw changes. Our committee is comprised of Julio Lopez, Mary Alice Manella and Steve Ackerman. A week before the picnic, the committee hopes to meet for their 1st workshop.

Our tri-county picnic is fast approaching so get your displays ready. September 29th, 2024. Please let Julio Lopez know if you plan to display and sell your rocks and minerals. Adding the number of vendors and sellers will add to the posting on Facebook and website

On our last meeting, we discussed purchasing a domain name FGCGMS.org and purchasing hosting for the website that Julio Lopez was helping design. Well! It is with great excitement that we can say, “**we are up and running again**”. You can find the club’s new website. FGCGMS.ORG. Please visit the site and discover what we are all about. There you will also find event flyers, potential field trip info, agendas and newsletters.



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Editorial:

Website

I hope that you have seen a change in the appearance both our newsletter, flyers, forms etc. I have tried to capture the same look throughout all of them. The gold background color is in following with the newsletter title, “The **Golden** Nugget” and in following with our name “Florida **Gold** Coast Gem and Mineral Society”. I followed the same color scheme to the new website. I hope you like the idea.

I am truly excited that I was able to figure out the whole webpage thing. It was not easy, but something/someone was guiding me and helping me. I hope the 10 pages or tabs of the site capture everything that the club represents and needs to promote itself on the internet. As I learn more about the programming and design aspect of the site, I hope to tweak it to improve ease of navigation and presentation.

My Facebook Post on last month’s presentation

“Wow!! Best presentation to date since I become president of the Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society. Dr. Steven Haggerty, geophysicist and mineralogist from FIU gave the club a fantastic presentation on “Diamonds, Where when and why”. This presentation was very thorough and presented in a way that some of our lay members also understood. Loved it!!! On Behalf of the club. Thank you Dr. Haggerty.”

Dr. Haggerty not only presented his expertise, gifted us the “Babbingtonite sample at the meeting but he shipped me more “Babbingtonite samples that we can auctions at our Christmas Party. I will bring all the samples he sent me to the picnic. Thank you Again Dr. Haggerty

At the meeting I will propose we make him an honorary member of the club. I have generated a certificate that we can present to him and just maybe we can bribe 😊 him to present to us again. Thank you again Dr. Haggerty

New Newsletter Section:

In an attempt to attract other mineral and crystal loving people I have added a new section at the end of the birthstone section. It is called the “Crystal Energy”. I look forward to your opinions.



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SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE - SAPPHIRE (Corundum, source GIA)



COURTESY: BILL LARSON (ROUGH), COLUMBIA GEM HOUSE (LEFT), DR. EDUARD J. GÜBELIN COLLECTION (BOTTOM).

The September birthstone is sapphire – a gem that’s been cherished for thousands of years. Although the term *sapphire* usually refers to the blue variety of corundum (ruby is the red variety), this birthstone comes in a rainbow of other colors. Sapphires have been long associated with royalty and romance and are also said to symbolize fidelity and the soul. “Sapphire” comes from the Greek word *sappheiros* and blue sapphire is one of the most popular colored stones. Read on to learn more about the September birthstone, specifically its history and where it can be found.

SAPPHIRE BIRTHSTONE MEANING & HISTORY

The September birthstone has traditionally symbolized sincerity, truth, faithfulness and nobility. For countless centuries, sapphire has adorned royalty and the robes of the clergy. The elite of ancient Greece and Rome believed that blue sapphires protected their owners from harm and envy. Clerics of the Middle Ages wore sapphires because they symbolized Heaven. Ancient Persians believed the earth actually rested on a giant sapphire, which made the sky blue.

The September birthstone was reputed to have healing powers as well. Medieval Europeans believed that sapphire cured plague boils and diseases of the eye. The sapphire birthstone was also thought to be an antidote to poison.

Famous sapphires include the Rockefeller Sapphire, a 62.02 carat (ct) rectangular step cut stone that was unearthed in Myanmar (Burma). Acquired in 1934 by financier and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874–1960) from an Indian maharaja, the gem was recut and remounted over the years. The sapphire was first set as a brooch and later as a ring featuring two cut-cornered triangular [diamond side stones](#). Perhaps the best-known sapphire in recent years is the 12 ct blue gem surrounded by diamonds in the sapphire engagement ring first worn by Princess Diana and then given by her son to Kate Middleton, now Duchess of Cambridge



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The famed Rockefeller Sapphire weighs 62.02 ct. Here it is flanked by two cut-cornered triangular cut diamonds, mounted in a platinum ring signed Tiffany & Co. Courtesy: Christie's Images Ltd., 2015

In addition to being the September birthstone, sapphire is also the gem commemorating the [5th](#) and [45th wedding anniversaries](#).

WHERE IS SAPPHIRE FOUND?

Kashmir, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Sri Lanka are three historically important sources for the September birthstone. Significant quantities of the September birthstone have also been found in Australia, Thailand, Cambodia, Madagascar and the United States (Montana), among other countries in Asia and Africa.

Sapphires were discovered in Kashmir around 1881 when a landslide high in the Himalayas exposed a large pocket of velvety “cornflower” blue crystals. As the spectacular sapphires began to appear farther south, the Maharaja of Kashmir – and his army – took control of the new locality. From 1882 to 1887, thousands of large, beautiful crystals were recovered. The stones faceted from these crystals established Kashmir sapphire’s reputation as one of the world’s most coveted gems. Production has been sporadic since then, but auction houses occasionally sell fine pieces of Kashmir sapphire jewelry.

The Mogok area of Myanmar is another locale famed for producing the September birthstone. Jungle-clad hills hemmed by mountains make a dramatic landscape. Sapphire typically occurs alongside [ruby](#) deposits, but in much smaller quantities than its red counterpart. “Burmese” sapphire, as it is still called by many, can possess a rich, intense blue hue, which has made it particularly prized. Myanmar is also a noted source of [jadeite jade](#), [spinel](#), [zircon](#), [amethyst](#), [peridot](#) and other fine gem materials.



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A scenic view near Mogok rivals the beauty of the sapphires hidden underground. Photo: James E. Shigley/GIA

For more than 2,000 years, Sri Lanka has been a source of the September birthstone. The blue and fancy-color stones mined from the alluvial gravels of this “jewel box of the Indian Ocean” can display remarkable brilliance and saturation. In addition, the island’s milky white “geuda” sapphires can be heat treated to a rich blue color.



Using the same rudimentary washing techniques as generations before them in Sri Lanka, a miner is searching for sapphire among the gravels in a local stream. Courtesy: Afsaneh Tazari

Thailand is both a source of sapphire and a major cutting and treatment center. In dense jungle crossed by dirt roads, miners dig for sapphire in Chanthaburi Province. Sapphires from Myanmar and Cambodia often end up in Chanthaburi for cutting and treatment and are also sent to Bangkok, an important gem hub.



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SAPPHIRE BIRTHSTONE CARE & CLEANING

The September birthstone is relatively hard, ranking 9 on the Mohs scale. It has excellent toughness and no cleavage, which is a tendency to break when struck. This makes it a great choice for rings and other mountings subject to daily wear.

Note, though, that sapphires are often treated to improve their color or clarity. Heat treatment is common – and the results permanent – so it is well accepted in the trade. Less common treatments such as lattice diffusion, fracture filling and dyeing may require special care. In some cases, the color induced by lattice diffusion is so shallow it could be removed if the stone was chipped or had to be recut. Fracture-filled and dyed sapphires can be damaged by even mild acids like lemon juice. Before you buy a sapphire, always ask if it is treated and by what method.

Warm, soapy water is always a safe choice for cleaning the September birthstone. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are usually safe for untreated, heat-treated and lattice diffusion-treated stones. Fracture-filled or dyed material should only be cleaned with a damp cloth



GIA.edu

It's easy to love the rich blue of the September birthstone, sapphire. Courtesy: JYE's International

Geology of Corundum:

If you would like to read up on the geology of corundum please read our July Newsletter where we covered the geology of Corundum (Rubies). Rubies and Sapphires are varieties of corundum.



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Crystal Energy:

Sapphires have a rich spiritual history and are believed to have many meanings and properties:

- a. **Wisdom:** Sapphires are often associated with wisdom and spiritual enlightenment. They are thought to help the wearer access deeper levels of understanding and knowledge.
- b. **Healing:** Sapphires are believed to have healing properties, particularly when it comes to physical ailments. They are sometimes used in crystal healing to help with issues related to the throat and third eye chakras.
- c. **Protection:** Sapphires are also believed to offer protection from negative energy and psychic attacks. They are thought to help the wearer stay grounded and centered, even in difficult situations.
- d. **Manifestation:** Sapphires are often used in manifestation work, as they are believed to help the wearer bring their desires into reality.
- e. **Clarity:** Sapphires are known for their clarity and transparency, both physically and metaphysically. They are thought to help the wearer see things more clearly and make better decisions.

In reiki, sapphire is believed to have a number of meanings and uses. Here are a few of the most common:

- f. **Channeling healing powers:** Sapphire is often used to help channel healing energy from higher sources, such as angels or spirit guides, into the healer. This can help amplify the healing power of the reiki practitioner.
- g. **Enhancing vocal healing:** Sapphire is also believed to enhance the healing power of the voice, making it a popular choice for reiki practitioners who use vocal toning or chanting in their practice.
- h. **Love and fidelity:** Sapphire is sometimes used in betrothal rings because of its association with love, commitment, and fidelity. This meaning can also be applied in reiki practice to help foster strong and healthy relationships.

Overall, sapphire is seen as a powerful tool for healing and spiritual growth in reiki practice.

Member - Marlene Flores





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

Tip #4 – Comparing Rock Properties – Igneous Rocks

Compare the Rock's Properties to Known Rock Types

Now that you have analyzed your rock and made note of as many physical characteristics as possible, it's time to actually find out what it is! You may already have a very good idea of whether your rock is sedimentary, igneous, or metamorphic, so I have divided the tables below accordingly.

Use these tables to find the rock type that most closely aligns with the properties of your rock. If you find a rock that is very close but doesn't quite match, it may be worthwhile to go back and re-evaluate the physical properties that don't align. Also, keep in mind that this list is far from exhaustive.

These tables are pretty comprehensive, but there may be uncommon rock types not listed here. Follow the links for more complete information on each rock type.

1. Igneous Rocks



Igneous rocks are formed from the cooling and solidification of molten magma or lava. Their composition is determined by the chemical composition of the lava or magma from which it forms, while the degree of crystal formation is determined by the amount of time it takes for the magma or lava to cool. In addition to this article, you can [find my post dedicated to igneous rock identification here.](#)

Igneous rocks are subdivided into two general groups:

- **Extrusive** igneous rocks are formed from rapidly cooling lava on the surface.
- **Intrusive** igneous rocks are formed from slowly cooling magma beneath the surface



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Rock Name	Composition	Grain Size	Color	Other Characteristics
Granite	Quartz, Feldspar, Mica or Amphibole	Coarse	White, Pink, Gray	Color and grain size highly variable
Rhyolite	Quartz, Feldspar	Very fine to glassy	Light color	Very high silica content, may contain larger crystals (phenocrysts)
Granodiorite	Quartz, Plagioclase	Coarse	Light gray, White & Black	High silica content, more plagioclase than alkali feldspar
Dacite	Quartz, Plagioclase	Fine	Light gray, White	High silica content, may contain larger crystals (phenocrysts)
Diorite	Plagioclase, Biotite, Hornblende, Pyroxene	Coarse	White and dark gray	Fairly rare, often confused with gabbro or granodiorite
Basalt	Augite, Pyroxene, Plagioclase, low-silica	Fine	Dark gray, sometimes light	Often has gas bubbles (vesicles). Can contain some larger crystals (porphyritic)
Diabase	Plagioclase, Augite, Olivine	Fine	Gray to dark gray	Sometimes called 'microgabbro'. Fine but visible crystals
Gabbro	Augite, Pyroxene, Plagioclase, low-silica	Coarse	Gray to dark gray	Intrusive equivalent of basalt
Pumice	Highly varied	Very fine, glassy	Light	Many small gas bubbles (vesicles), floats in water
Scoria	Augite, Pyroxene, Plagioclase, low-silica	Very fine	Dark	Larger gas bubbles (vesicles) and vesicle walls than pumice. Usually does not float.
Obsidian	Quartz, feldspar	Glassy	Dark, light (rarely)	Conchoidal fractures, very sharp edges
Andesite	Plagioclase, Pyroxene, Hornblende	Fine grained, some large	Light to dark gray	Between basalt and rhyolite. Porphyritic texture (some large crystals)
Tuff	Highly variable	Very fine	Light to dark	Relatively soft, made of volcanic ash
Pegmatite	Quartz, Feldspar, Mica	Coarse to Very large	White, Pink, Gray, Varied	Resembles granite, but even bigger crystals
Syenite	Alkali Feldspar	Coarse	Light to medium	Similar to granite but lacking quartz
Dunite	Olivine, Pyroxene	Coarse	Green	Fairly rare. Almost entirely olivine crystals
Tuff	Highly variable	Very fine	Light to dark	Relatively soft, made of volcanic ash
Pegmatite	Quartz, Feldspar, Mica	Coarse to Very large	White, Pink, Gray, Varied	Resembles granite, but even bigger crystals
Syenite	Alkali Feldspar	Coarse	Light to medium	Similar to granite but lacking quartz



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On the Punny Side:

Oh, you were looking for rock jokes? Let's see what we can dig up.

Dug up three more, puns, here you go;

- *There's no halfway with a geologist—it is all "ore" nothing.*
- *I've had a rough day, but I don't want to chalk about it.*
- *Why are limestones ignored?
Because they're too chalkative for their liking.*
- *Why don't the bigger limestones like the smaller ones?
Because they don't like small chalk.*



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Calendar of Events

July 17th 2024

FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting

August 21th 2024

FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting

September 18th 2024

FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting

September 29th 2024

Tri-county Picnic

October 16th, 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 20th 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 18th 2028

FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting & Christmas Party

Seven (7) days prior to the December meeting ballots are due.

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	Marlene Flores
December	Christmas Party – No Volunteer(s) needed

Please contact Ariel Helman @ 305-335-4405 for changes.

Club Info:

Club's Email: floridagemmineral@gmail.com
 Club's Website: <http://www.fcgms.org>
 Club Facebook Page: [Florida Gem & Mineral Society](#)
 Federation Website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>
 Instagram: floridagemmineral – follow us on Instagram
 Mailing Address: 8783 NW 142 Lane, Miami Lakes, FL 33018

List of Officers:

Function	2 nd Function	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address	2 nd E-mail Address
President	Database Manager	Julio Lopez	786-603-8081	floridagemmineral@gmail.com	juliolp2059@gmail.com
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
Treasurer		Beverly Norona	954-205-5815	bevn12345@aol.com	
Sunshine Chair		Mirtha Rimarachin	954-948-7657	mrmarac88@gmail.com	
Member Committee		Robert Allen	954-981-2307	rca39@yahoo.com	
Refreshment Committee		Ariel Helman	305-335-4405	arielh305@gmail.com	
Game Master / Quiz Committee		Dick Haliburton	954-249-0365	dickhaliburton@gmail.com	
Newsletter Committee		Vacant			
Newsletter Committee		Jeffrey Gross	954-987-0645	jgrossarchitect@gmail.com	



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Advertisers:

Ye Olde Rock Shoppe

Ye Ole Rock Shoppe
1425 S 30 Avenue, Suite C, Hollywood, FL 33020

954-295-0606, 954-610-8084
Yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net

<https://yeolderockshoppe.com>



Crystal Cave Rock and Gem Shop
6835 Stirling Road, Fort Lauderdale
Florida 33314,
<https://thecrystalcaverockandgemshop.com>
Phone: (954) 585- 8988 Fax: (954) 585-
8988
Email: jackiescrystalcave@att.net



Poochie Parlor – By Susan Anderson
1621 N. Hiatus Road, Pembroke Pines FL 33026



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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: