

The Rockhound

Official Publication of the Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

www.gemandmineralsociety.org May 2018 Volume 51 Issue 8

<u>President's Message</u>

We had our annual Steak Diner and Raffle a couple of weeks ago and a grand time was had by all! The food was delicious, the camaraderie was strong, and we all were able to add more rocks, minerals and fossils to our collections. Thanks to all those who worked to make this a successful event. A special thank you to Debbie Kachman for providing the steaks again this year and to Walter Triche and Mike Perkins for burning them to everyones satisfaction! Also thanks to Lo Rain and Lorna Hayes for preparing all the items for the raffle and getting it all to the location for set up. And I can't forget to thank our returning auctioneer, Grant Simmons. There are so many members who helped put this together and you all did a wonderful job!

Coming up this month for the general meeting, the presenter will be Alan Meltzer. I'm told the subject of his presentation will be petrified wood. Please make plans to attend on May 17th and bring friends and family because you don't want to miss this. Also this month there are tentative plans for a field trip to see Mr. Meltzers collection! Next month, on June 3rd, there will another Picnic at TY Park in Broward County for members of the Ft. Lauderdale Club, the Miami Club and our Club. Information on these events can be found later in this newsletter.

And now, just in time for the coming warmer weather, the faulty air conditioner at the shop has been replaced and it feels good! Please come take advantage of the shop's equipment, the library, and the cool workspace to expand your creativity. Hope to see you soon!

- Lee Miller, President

Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 17 at 7:30 pm

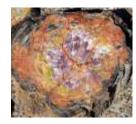




4801 Dreher Trail North West Palm Beach FL 33405 at the Multi-Purpose Center

May Program: Alan Meltzer on Petrified Wood

Alan is an avid collector of agates, petrified



wood and dinosaur "gem" bone, traveling to major shows and to visit his suppliers' shops. A trip to see his collection is planned for June 9.

Junior Rockhounds

This month our Junior Rockhounds will take their cue from the adult presentation and

will be exploring fossils of all kinds. Anyone who has fossil samples they would like share, please bring them.



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Birthstone: Emerald

The green emerald is the birthstone of May which is the middle of spring (maybe not in South Florida). The emerald is a prized gemstone often more valuable than diamond. Emeralds were first mined in Egypt starting around 3500BC. Today emeralds are mined at places around the world with the best known source being in Colombia. There is an emerald mine in Hiddenite, NC which is the only emerald mine in the world open to the public. See: <u>http://</u> www.emeraldhollowmine.com/.



Like all gemstones the value of an emerald depends on color, clarity, cut and carat weight. Emeralds tend to have a lot of inclusions which makes emeralds resistance to

breakage poor. The shade of green is also important and how green the stone needs to be is still an unsettled question as the following quote from <u>https://www.gia.edu/emerald</u> shows: 'Gem experts differ on the degree of green that makes one stone an emerald and another stone a lessexpensive green beryl. Most gemologists, gemological laboratories, and colored stone dealers call a stone green beryl when its color is "too light" for it to be classified as emerald. Even among that group, however, there's a difference of opinion about what's considered "too light.""

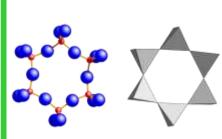


Rough Emerald to Cut Stone

Now that we have mentioned beryl we need to note that emerald, for all it's value, is impure beryl. The mineral beryl, Be₃Al₂(SiO₃)₆ sometimes contains chromium as an impurity and when it does it is emerald. The chromium replaces some of the aluminum and gives the crystal it's green color. In some instances the



crystals contain vanadium (or chromium and vanadium) a metal similar to chromium which also colors the crystal green. The experts are still arguing about whether or not these gemstones are emeralds. Emerald (and beryl and aquamarine) are crystals called cyclosilicates. From the formula there are 6 silicon atoms in



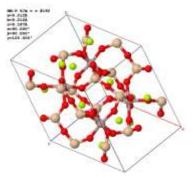
the formula and these are arranged in a cyclic structure:

In the cyclic structure the silicon atoms

are shown as red and oxygens are shown as blue. These depictions don't show the beryllium or aluminum (chromium) atoms.

This is the unit cell or minimum unit that makes

up a beryl or emerald crystal. The atoms are colored as: silicon: grey, oxygen: red, beryllium: green and aluminum (chromium): grey.



Below are general references used in this article:

https://www.americangemsociety.org/page/ maybirthstone https://www.gia.edu/emerald https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerald https://in_minorals.org/worta.on/download.htm

http://jp-minerals.org/vesta/en/download.html This is the software used to generate the unit cell. It is free to download. There are numerous open databases of crystallographic files (xxxx.cif). Vesta opens these files and they can be rotated for viewing along with many other things.

Article compiled by Richard Tracey

April Business Meeting Minutes

The April 2018 business meeting was called to order by Lee Miller at 20:10 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lee Miller called for birthday announcements.

Jenny Wright was not present to give a Treasury Report.

Club Webmaster Richard Tracey invited people to submit information appropriate for the new website.

It was announced that our club was recognized by the Eastern Federation for the most new members in the Federation.

Jennifer McIntire was not present to give a Membership Report.

Arlene Lazarro, Debbie Kachman, and Laura Simmons will be scheduling future classes.

Walter Triche reported that a new air conditioner has been purchased, and there are plans to have it installed soon. Walter called for volunteers to staff the GMSPB booth for the Frank Cox show at the Fairgrounds this weekend. He also reported that most tables are already rented for our 2018 show.

There was a discussion about ways to recruit more Junior Rockhounds. Some ideas were shared. Scouting programs, local schools, science related clubs, and the Chamber of Commerce were mentioned. There was some further discussion about advertising and making professional brochures to leave at strategic locations. Arlene Lazarro suggested forming a committee to develop a brochure. Members are encouraged to submit further any ideas for recruitment. K C Foster suggested checking with Federation sites for information on how to set up a Junior Rockhounds program.

Jennifer Martin was not present to tell the membership about upcoming programs. Future programs will be announced in the Rockhound newsletter.

Laura Phillips was not present for a Newsletter report. Members were encouraged to submit articles, including for the Rockhound of the Month column.

Lo Rain Dudley thanked everyone for their help at the annual Auction and Steak Dinner.

There will be a TY Park Picnic on June 3rd, which is combined with members of the Fort Lauderdale and Miami clubs. The address and information are available in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:40.

Club Organization

The Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches is part of a national hierarchy of mineralogical societies, as shown below.



The <u>American Federation of Mineral Societies</u>—amfed.org—oversees the **Regional Clubs** shown above.

Two Regional Clubs are our parent clubs:

- <u>Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies</u> amfed.org/efmls
- <u>Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies</u> amfed.org/sfms

The <u>Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches</u>—gemandmineralsociety.org—has several **Neighbor Clubs**:

- <u>Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society</u> fgcgms.com—(Broward County)
- <u>St. Lucie County Rock and Gem Club</u> slcrockandgem.org
- <u>Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society</u> treasurecoastrockandgem.org (Indian River County)
- Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild—mmlginc.org

All of these Clubs have extensive websites with articles, information, and newsletters of interest to all rockhounds.

Club Purpose

To associate persons of the Palm Beach area of Florida who are interested in earth sciences, to work together as an organization in the gathering, cutting, displaying, and studying of rocks, shells, artifacts, and any kind of scientific objects of interest to the individual and the organization, to promote community interest in these objects.

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Carolee Boyles Karla Gushue Maryann Kolenchak Ray Ritari Karin Sexton Nancy Sirkus David Taylor Lynn Tinker



SAVE THE DATES!

This year's SFMS workshop weeks will be held at William Holland June 10th – 16th , 2018, and at Wildacres August 20th - 26th and September 17th -23rd , 2018. More information is available at <u>sfmsworkshops.com</u>.

This year's EFMLS workshop weeks will be held at Wildacres May 21st - 27th and September 4th – 10th, 2018. More information is available at <u>efmls-</u> wildacres.org.

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Member Highlight: Alan Meltzer

Alan, 57, grew up on Long Island, NY but spent 5 years in college in Buffalo, NY and Durham, NC pursuing his BS (business admin)/MBA/JD.

After college he moved to West Palm Beach (1988) and started a wallpaper hanging business, like his granddad, dad and brother did. He took up scuba diving ands spearfishing and for the next 15 years spent thousands of hours underwater.

In March of 2004 he walked into the gift shop at Ruby's Best Western at Bryce Canyon, UT and was fascinated by the petrified wood he'd seen there before. But this time he was going to buy some and a man walked up to ask "Can I help you? I don't work here but I cut and polish the petrified wood for the shop". Long story short, Alan ended up back at that man's shop, bought a load of specimens and started a 14 year passion that's landed him a spot as guest speaker at this month's meeting!

Alan is an avid collector of agates, petrified wood and dinosaur "gem" bone, traveling to major shows and to visit his suppliers' shops. While familiar with the science behind these paleogeological wonders, Alan specializes in specimens of high eye appeal. He and his long-time girlfriend enjoy traveling as often as possible, especially when Alan can add a rock-related stop along the way!

FIELD TRIP!

Saturday, June 9

Jen Martin and Alan Meltzer are currently planning the details for a **June field trip to see Alan's awesome** collection of petrified wood, agates, and dinosaur bone. Keep your eyes peeled for a separate email about it when we know the specifics. If you **don't have email, please contact Jen** at (561) 281-5466 closer to the time.





Sadie!

Hello! It's Sadie here, with pictures from our latest trip to the Eastern Federation Conference. It was a long drive but Mom (Lorna Hayes) let me stop to smell the "roses" and sniff some really cool trees. After the long meetings we got dressed and went out in the woods to dig rocks.









Do you have a pet that we could feature next month? Please send a picture and a little information to Laura Phillips at laura@ahphillips.com.

May 2018 Volume 51 No. 8



Bench Tips by Brad

Reprinted from the May 2018 Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter

POLISHING WHEELS

In the finishing sequence there's a step called pre-polishing, between sanding and buffing, and one of the most effective tools I've found to help here is the little silicone wheels used in a Foredom or Dremel. They come in several different abrasive levels and several different shapes. The wheels are color coded to denote their abrasive level. Different shapes (coin, knife, cylinder, point, etc.) are available to match the geometry of

the area being cleaned up.



For starters, I'd suggest a medium, a fine, and an extra fine wheel in both the coin shape and the knife-edge shape. Be sure to get a few extra mandrels so you'll have one of each wheel shape mounted and ready to go.

The thicker coin shapes are particularly handy. Cylinder shapes are nice for doing the inside of rings, and knife-edge shapes quickly clean up the solder joint around the outside base of your bezels .

Most jewelry catalogs carry these wheels, but often the color codes don't match between different manufacturers.

RESHAPING SILICONE WHEELS

Silicone polishing wheels in the Dremel or Foredom are a great time saver, but after using them a bit they often need to be reshaped. This is particularly true with the knife-edge wheels.

The natural thought is to grab one of your files and hold it up against the rotating wheel to reshape it. But this gives you a problem. The grinding grit in the silicone wheel is much harder than steel, meaning that you end up grinding down the teeth of your file.

The best way to reshape your polishing wheels is to use a diamond file or a separating disk. If you don't have one and must use a steel file, I sacrifice the area of the file that is closest to the handle. That's an area which is not used in normal bench work.



NO-MAR PLIERS



Pliers can often leave nicks and scratches on your work. If this is giving you a problem, first take a close look at the plier jaws. New tools can be a little rough. I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks, and give working areas a quick polish.

If that doesn't solve the problem, you probably need to cover the jaws. Plastic electrical tape provides a quick fix but can leave messy adhesive on the jaws, and dips don't seem to last very long.

A quick and easy solution is to slip a length of 1/8 diameter vinyl tubing over each jaw. It works well and leaves no sticky residue. The tubing can be found in a store that sells aquarium supplies. Note that this will increase the size of the plier jaws a bit, but I haven't found that to be a problem.

Safety Matters — You Are Being Watched

By Ellery Borow, Safety Chair, AMFS — Reprinted from the May 2018 AFMS Newsletter



You are indeed being watched. While out on a club dig or field trip searching for some nice collectables people are mostly interested in looking at the hole they are digging. Next, people are looking at the marvelous "sparklies" they are finding in the hole. Lastly, they are looking at the people all around them to see what is going on nearby. If you are near one of those intrepid diggers you are being watched by them.

So, because you are being noticed by other collectors, are you setting a good example for them? Are you wearing appropriate footwear? Do you have on suitable protective garments? Might the safety goggles you are wearing be proper for the site? Gloves, are they being worn? Seriously, people are watching you. Are you setting a good example for them?

Many a time it has been said kids sometimes do not take instructions well. They are, after all, moving toward finding their own independence. Kids however are also little sponges, soaking

up information about everything and everyone around them. Kids can't wait to be grown ups, and so are always watching adults... what we are saying, what we are doing, what we are wearing... all while pretending to be ignoring us.

With all that said - kids are hungry for example setters and role models. Therefore, we adults should be aware of the examples we are setting for all the kids around us. So, I ask again, are you setting a good example for your kids, and all the other kids around you? Even adults learn from those who set good examples.

Please consider this: utilizing your personal protective equipment is great for you and your family... and it may also be setting a great example for those around you. You can do this - wear good footwear, proper protective clothing, gloves, goggles, and keep those tools in good repair. Be a trend setter. Be a good example. As a bonus, you will be safer, and you will be helping other people learn to be safer as well!

Your safety matters, as does everyone else's!

TY PARK Tri-Club Picnic and Rock Swap & Sale

Sunday, June 3 from 10:00AM-4:00 PM Pavilion #9 at TY Park (see map)

- Relax and mingle with members of the Palm Beach, Gold Coast, and Miami clubs
- Bring a **potluck dish** to share, your **table service** and **drinks** (no glass containers)
- Bring items to donate to Raffles and Bingo, which pay for pavilion
- Arrive around 9:30-10:30 if you wish to set up a table to sell club related items (no charge), just bring **table** and **chairs**
- Lunch begins at 11:30
- Volunteers are needed to help set-up, sell tickets, call bingo, and clean-up.
- For more info, call Sean Branigan at 954/592-1503 or KC Foster at 561/523-4600

DIRECTIONS: From I-95 go West on Sheridan Street. Go North (right turn) on North Park Road. The Park entrance will be on the right (east) side. *Park admission is \$1.50 per person.*



SHOP TALK

Open Shop Schedule

Open shop is available for members use only, but visitors are welcome to stop by during open shop hours. Open shop fees are \$5.00 for the first 3 hours and \$7.00 for time over three hours.

Important! Members must complete a 6 class Certification Class before using the cabbing equipment. This class runs for six consecutive weeks for 3 hours each week to provide safety instructions and cabbing techniques. If you received training elsewhere, you will still need to demonstrate your proficiency before using shop equipment. For information on cabbing certification please call Susan Cairl @ 561-293-1298

Open Shop Hours:

Mondays 10:30am - 5:00pm, Samantha Lazzaro, Shop Steward - 631-764-6556 Tuesdays Evenings by Appointment - Laura Simmons, Shop Steward - 407-234-0444 Thursdays 12:30pm - 3:30pm, Dennis Rietwyk, Shop Steward - 561-255-0292 Fridays 6:00pm - 9:00pm, Susan Cairl, Shop Steward - 561-293-1298

"Stuff Happens" so please call first to verify the shop will be open as scheduled. If the assigned shop steward cannot be reached, call Susan Cairl, Head Steward, to confirm.

Shop Report

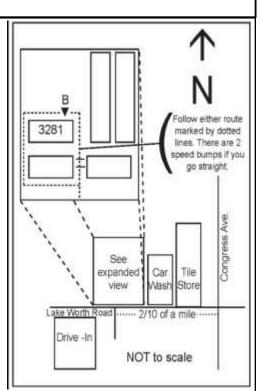
Open shop is available for lapidary, metal work, enameling, fused glass, classes and to use the library. You must be certified to use the kiln! For kiln certification and classes, please call Samantha Lazzaro.

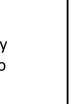
At the present time, kiln use is limited to Monday Open Shop Hours. For beginning silversmith classes, please call Laura Simmons.

Additional classes will be announced as they become available. When visiting the shop please know:

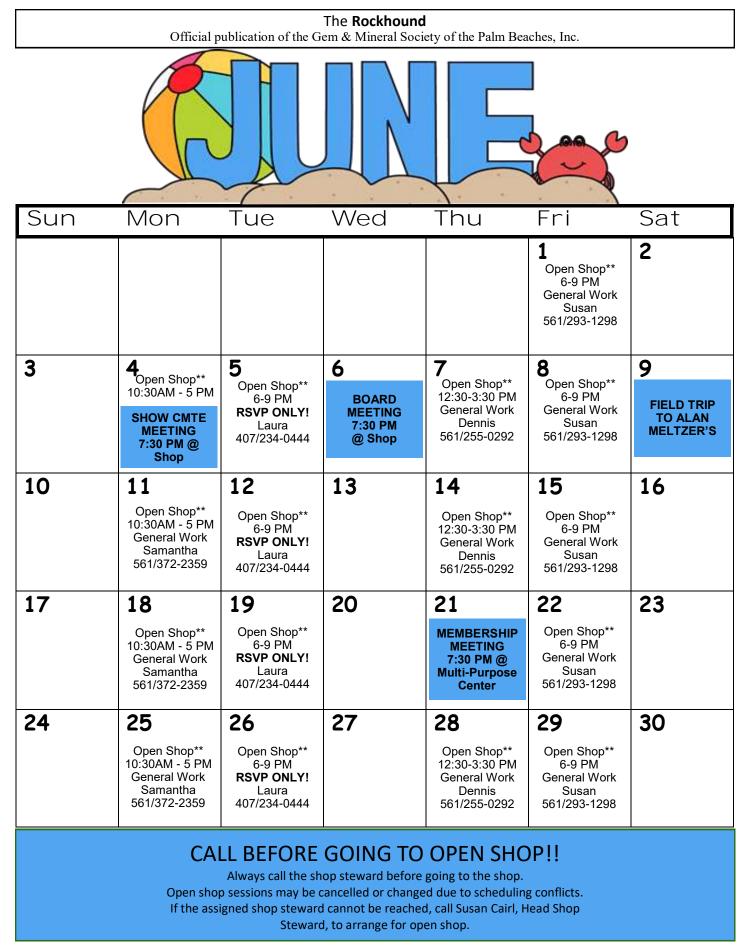
- You will be asked to sign a one-time liability waiver and be given a copy of the shop rules
- Always sign in and out of the log book and complete the information on the sign in sheet
- Drinks and food are permitted in the outer room only
- There is no fee to use the library or reference videos available in the shop

The street address of the shop is: 3281 Lake Worth Road, Suite B, Lake Worth, FL 33461









AVAILABLE CLASSES

CLASS	INSTRUCTOR	COST	DATE/TIME/NOTES
 ◊ Introduction to Chainmail ◊ How to Use the Jumpringer ◊ Introduction to Metalsmithing ◊ Viking Wire Weave 	Laura Simmons 407/234–0444	\$30 + \$10 materials fee \$10 + \$5 materials fee \$50 + \$30 materials (copper) or \$60 materials (silver) \$30 + \$15 fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Cabochon sessions Six 3-hr sessions	Susan Cairl 561/293-1298	\$75 + \$20 materials fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Cold Connections Class Series: Explosion Pendant Fold Forming Bracelet w/Beveled Stone Setting Scrapbook Bracelet (rivets) Metal Etching & Air Chasing Bracelet 3D Pendant w/Druzy Stone Slice NEW! 	Arlene Lazzaro 5 <i>1</i> 6/810-3495	\$40 + \$35 materials fee \$40 + \$35 materials fee \$40 + \$35 materials fee \$40 + \$40 materials fee \$40 + \$40 materials fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Enameling	Samantha Lazzaro 561/372-2359	\$40 + \$50 materials fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Flat Lap	Susan Cairl 561/293-1298	\$40 + \$10 supplies fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Fused Glass (Beginner)	Harriet Flashenburg 561/733-1466	\$50 + \$50 materials fee	Four afternoon sessions Class taught in season only. Contact instructor to arrange.
Gem Tree	Dianna Ray 561/707-6753	TBD	Contact instructor to arrange.
Metalsmithing: ◊ Alien Prong Ring	Arlene Lazzaro 516/810-3495	\$40 + \$15 materials fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Wire Fan Bracelet Class	Debi Kachman 561/568-8736	\$30 + \$20-50 materials fee (depending on metal) OR supply list can be provided	Contact instructor to arrange.
Wire Sculpture Class	Debi Kachman 561/568-8736	\$30 + \$20-50 materials fee (depending on metal) OR supply list can be provided	Contact instructor to arrange.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Junior Membership—\$10.00 (Under age 18) Single Membership—\$20.00 (Over age 18) Family Membership—\$30.00 (Includes 2 adults and children under age 18 in a single household)

Membership expires on December 31st each year and is due by the end of February of the new year.

To renew your membership, make your check or money order to:

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. and mail to:

Membership Coordinator Gem & Mineral Society P.O. Box 18095 West Palm Beach, FL 33416-8095

NAME TAGS

Available from: Ace Marking Devices (\$12.00) 3308 S. Dixie Hwy. West Palm Beach, FL 33405 561/833-4073

SHOP FEES

Up to 3 hours shop time - \$5 Over 3 hours shop time - \$7

SEE CALENDAR FOR OPEN SHOPS

SHOP STEWARDS

Head Shop Steward: Susan Cairl 561/293-1298

Laura Simmons 407/234-0444 Dennis Rietwyk 561/255-0292 Samantha Lazzaro 561/372-2359

Shop Phone: 561/585-2080

- President* 1st Vice President* 2nd Vice President* Secretary* Treasurer*
- Head Shop Steward* Membership* Newsletter Editor* Member-at-Large* Show Chairman* Webmaster*

2018 OFFICERS

561/389-8584
561/379-4307
561/281-5466
561/389-8584
561/634-1427

2018 DIRECTORS

Susan Cairl	561/293-1298
Jennifer McIntyre	863/414-1240
Laura Phillips	561/523-3594
Lo Rain Dudley	561/827-5793
Walter Triche	561/628-1031
Richard Tracey	561/318-6891

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

Hostess	Samantha Lazzaro	561/372-2359
Jr. Rockhound Program	Mitchell Turk	561/506-4655
Librarian	Shop Steward on Duty	
Programs	Jennifer Martin	561/281-5466
Raffle Coordinator	Lo Rain Dudley	561/827-5793
Refreshments	Arlene Lazzaro	561/810-3495
Sunshine Committee	Lo Rain Dudley	561/827-5793
Social Events	Debi Kachman	561/793-6777
Webmaster	Richard Tracey	561/318-6891

*Denotes a Voting Member of the Executive Committee.

WEBSITE www.gemandmineralsociety.org

Club Email Addresses

membership@gmspb.org newsletter@gmspb.org president@gmspb.org show@gmspb.org vendorinfo@gmspb.org webmaster@gmspb.org

Link to our **smile.amazon.com** account: <u>http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-6196330</u>

The Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) corporation and a member of the Eastern and Southeastern Federations of Mineral and Lapidary Societies, and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except for December, which is held on the second Thursday. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the former Garden Club building (across from the Science Center), 4800 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach, FL 33405.

Send comments or submissions to newsletter@gemandmineralsociety.org