



The Rockhound

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

www.gemandmineralsociety.org
July 2018 Volume 51 Issue 10

President's Message

Hello Fellow Rockhounds!

While summer is in full swing and and some club activities have been curtailed for a couple of months, there are still a few of you working hard to prepare for events to be held in the near future. The shop has been relatively quiet and new paint is beginning to appear in places that needed it. If any of you would like to use the shop and are qualified, this is a good time to work because it isn't crowded and all the work stations are readily available. Check the newsletter for shop hours and please call the steward to let them know you are coming.

Our 52nd Gem, Mineral, and Fossil show is coming up in November and the show committee is going down the long, long list of tasks to be completed in order to make it happen. Seems like we just had the 51st but it has been 8 months! If you would like to be involved in show activities we would be happy to have you! Contact the show chairman, Walter Triche, or any member of the committee to volunteer. Contact information can be found in this newsletter.

The annual banquet is another activity that is fast approaching and along with that the election and installation of new officers for the upcoming year. The nominating committee is looking for volunteers for the open positions and accepting bids for all positions. If any member would like to be more involved in the activities and the planning of all events related to the club, this is the very best way to do it and we would love to have you. Please don't be shy. Volunteer!

See you at the next general meeting on July 19th.

— Lee Miller, President

Membership Meeting

Thursday, July 19
at 7:30 pm

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

July Program: Excavating Ecuador A Guide to Conducting Archaeological Field Work

What are the techniques used by archaeologists when they are excavating a new site? How is the dig actually conducted? How is the site laid-out, the earth removed, the measurements taken, and data recorded? What methods are used to document and preserve their finds for later analysis? In this lecture, Rudolph F. Pascucci, Director of the Palm Beach Museum of Natural History will take you through the process step-by-step, following a dig conducted in 2008 by the Florida Atlantic University Archaeological Field School in Salango, Ecuador.

Museum Website: www.pbmnh.org
Meetup Group: www.meetup.com/The-Palm-Beach-Museum-of-Natural-History

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 to share, please bring them.



July

Birthstone: Ruby

Ruby has a fascinating history that goes back to ancient times. It has always been known as the king of gemstones and is associated with passion, protection and prosperity. High quality rubies of 1 carat and larger are very rare. Rubies were traded along China's Silk Road as far back as 200BC and were known by the Romans. "Though ruby has a long history, it wasn't recognized as a variety of

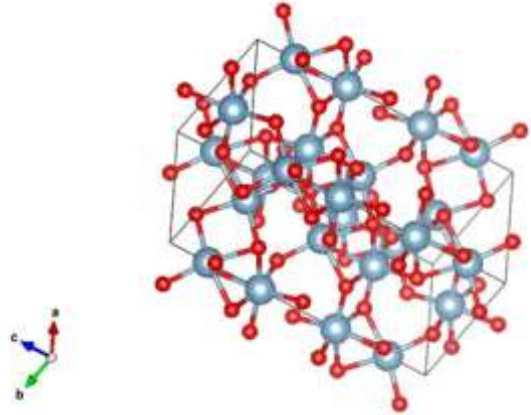


corundum until 1800. Prior to that, red spinel, tourmaline, and garnet were also believed to be ruby. Even the Black Ruby, one of the famed

crown jewels of England, was considered one of the largest cut rubies until determined to be spinel."1 The first laser ever built relied on ruby (synthetic).

Ruby is made of the mineral corundum. Corundum is best known for being the grit on sandpaper. While corundum doesn't sound very interesting, large crystals of corundum are very rare. Rubies are crystals that contain trace

amounts of chromium. Corundum



crystals of any other color are called sapphires.2 Blue sapphires are caused by traces of titanium or iron.

Corundum is aluminum oxide which has the formula Al_2O_3 and forms a colorless crystal. In the crystal each aluminum atom is bonded to six oxygen atoms. In the drawing the aluminum atoms are colored silver and the oxygen atoms are colored red. When some of the aluminum atoms are replaced by chromium we have ruby. The ruby gets its red color for two reasons. It absorbs other colors of light which makes it appear red but it also converts some of the other colors of light to red light in a process called fluorescence. This dual process makes the ruby very bright. The fluorescence of the ruby is also what made it possible to make a laser using synthetic ruby crystals.

<https://www.americangemsociety.org/page/julybirthstone>

<https://www.gemrockauctions.com/learn/technical-information-on-gemstones/blue-sapphires-what-makes-sapphires-blue>

-Article compiled by Richard Tracey

You Might Be a Rockhound if...

- ◆ You think road cuts are built as tourist attractions
- ◆ You describe your vacations by the rocks you brought home.
- ◆ The rockpile in your garage is over your head.
- ◆ Your PC screen saver features pictures of rocks.
- ◆ You find rocks when you empty your pockets at night.
- ◆ You went to a rock festival and you hate music.
- ◆ You gave rocks, tumblers, or rock tools for Christmas.
- ◆ When friends say they're going to Tucson, you assume it'll be in February.
- ◆ You can find Quartzsite on a map in less than 5 seconds.
- ◆ When someone mentions "Franklin" you think of New Jersey rather than Ben.

- from amfed.org



Andree Bogues
 K. C. Foster
 Marta Cruz
 Dorothy Lawson
 Jennifer Martin
 Suzanne McCollum
 Michel McNabb
 Michael Perkins
 Grant Simmons
 Laura Simmons
 Ilene Taussig
 Gene Torres
 Ingrid Webster

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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The older you get, the better you get. Unless you're a cookie.

— Cookie Monster (the Muppets)



Member Highlight:

Angela & Paul Juliano

This month our spotlights focus on two long time club members, Angela and Paul Juliano. They have been members for about 25 years, and Angela was club President in 1997 and 1998. Before that, she was our Treasurer for five years.

Many people come to the club because of a longstanding interest in rocks and minerals, and that includes Angela. Even as a child, she was always collecting specimens, especially anything shiny or sparkly. Originally from New York, they became members of the club in the early 1990's after moving to our area. Once they joined the club, they took most of the classes we offer, including cabbing, beading, silversmithing, and wire wrapping. They went on field trips and digs. Angela was on the Board of Directors for many years, and both were involved in the annual show.

Angela is a very busy and important person at Lynn University, where she has worked for almost 30 years! She got her Bachelors and Masters degrees from Lynn while working there, and has served in a number of positions, including Human Resources Director and her current position, Director of Box Office Operations. She confesses to absolutely loving her job. Paul is retired and according to Angela, he's a fabulous cook.

On July 17, Angela and Paul will be celebrating their 52nd anniversary! Stop by to congratulate them at our meeting on the 19th.



Meet Kayla!

Kayla is a rescue dog. She was found wondering the street in South Carolina as a puppy. She is a wonderfully playful and friendly 60 pound lap dog. She gets frightened of lightning and fireworks, and will be in your lap instantly. She is great with people and especially kids, just watch out for her tail, lol. She loves to be outside and is a great companion for outings (especially if it is to go for a "ride").



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.

CONCH PEARL: **THE ONLY NATURAL PINK PEARL**

What are conch pearls?

Pretty and pastel-hued, a conch pearl is a calcareous concretion produced by the Queen conch (pronounced “conk”) mollusc, which is a large, edible sea snail. Most often pink in colour and normally oval shaped, the finest examples display a wave-like “flame” structure on their surface and have a creamy, porcelain-like appearance and unique shimmer.

Unlike pearls harvested from oysters, conch pearls – like other naturally occurring pearls, including the Melo and Giant Clam – are non-nacreous, which means they are not made of nacre, the substance that gives traditional pearls their iridescent lustre.



How are conch pearls formed?

It is believed that a conch pearl is formed when an irritant, often a broken bit of shell, enters the Queen conch, around which a calcareous concentration forms. These concentric layers of fibrous crystals build up around the irritant, in the same way as kidney stones grow in humans.



Unlike oysters, which can be pried open to reveal the exact location of a pearl, no-one knows precisely where conch pearls are formed because of the elaborate whorled structure of a conch shell. Grown inside a pearl sac in the orange mantle of the Queen conch, they are normally found at the same time as the meat is cut out of the shell.

Where are conch pearls found?

Found in large groups of up to 200, Queen conches live among beds of sea grass in the warm tropical waters of the Caribbean, from the Yucatán all the way up to Bermuda.

Conch pearls are a beautiful by-product of the fishing industry in this region. Caught primarily for its meat, the Queen conch is eaten throughout the Caribbean and the US, raw in salads or cooked in local delicacies such as chowders and fritters.

Overfishing in many of the locations in which the Queen conch is found has forced all but three conch-producing countries to ban fishing to protect populations, which it is predicted will not recover for decades. This means fewer conch pearls are coming to market.

At one time, Queen conches were also found off the coast of Florida, where it is now illegal to fish them.

Why are conch pearls so rare?

In a world dominated by cultured pearls, natural pearls, formed without human intervention, come with the “rare” tag that makes them infinitely more desirable. Just like gemstones, which are more valuable if they are sold in their natural, untreated state, the exclusivity of conch pearls is partly due to the fact that they are 100% as nature intended. However, there are other factors that contribute to their rarity.



Size, Shape & Care

Most conch pearls have an elongated, oval, or baroque shape, and near-round specimens are very rare. Conch pearls weigh significantly more than oyster pearls, with a specific gravity of 2.85; and unlike other pearls, are sized by carat weight. Conch pearls are rated harder than nacreous pearls resulting in more resistance to erosion and corrosion than nacreous pearls.

Although conch pearls can be found over 100 carats, larger sizes (above 5 carats) of conch pearls are uncommon, with the average size being less than 3 carats. Due to the high value of conch pearls, drilling and/or gluing should be avoided in the mounting, as this will devalue the pearl. Known as the night gem, prolonged exposure to sunlight (ultraviolet light) can have a dulling and fading effect.

Indoor lighting does not seem to have effects on the pearls. It is an organic gem, therefore, jewelry should be used with care-no gardening, rock climbing, safaris and washing dishes is also out of the question!

Conch pearl value

A combination of size, shape, colour and flame effect determines the value of a conch pearl. “Prices vary wildly and have increased rapidly for the rarest pearls,” says Sue Hendrickson. “Therefore, people are reluctant to quote them. Excellent pearls today can cost as much as \$15,000 per carat and more, but those are the exceptionally rare ones. Top-grade conch pearls are more typically around \$4,000-\$7,000 per carat and nice, but not necessarily perfect, pearls around \$2,000-\$3,000.”

- reprinted from geologyin.com

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.

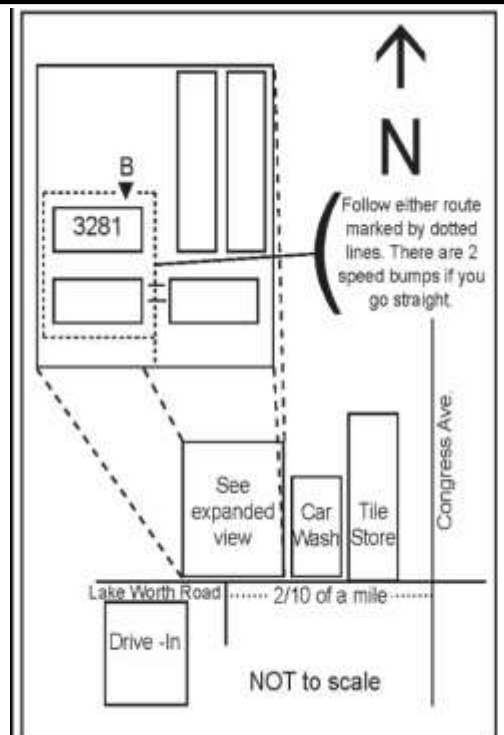
Shop Report

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



July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 	5 Open Shop** 12:30-3:30 PM General Work Dennis 561/255-0292	6 Open Shop** 6-9 PM General Work Susan 561/293-1298	7
8	9 Open Shop** 10:30AM - 5 PM General Work Lee 561/329-8872	10	11	12 Open Shop** 12:30-3:30 PM General Work Dennis 561/255-0292	13 Open Shop** 6-9 PM General Work Susan 561/293-1298	14
15	16 Open Shop** 10:30AM - 5 PM General Work Lee 561/329-8872	17	18	19 Open Shop** 12:30-3:30 PM MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 PM @ Multi-Purpose Center	20 Open Shop** 6-9 PM General Work Susan 561/293-1298	21
22	23 Open Shop** 10:30AM - 5 PM General Work Lee 561/329-8872	24	25	26 Open Shop** 12:30-3:30 PM General Work Dennis 561/255-0292	27 Open Shop** 6-9 PM General Work Susan 561/293-1298	28
29	30 Open Shop** 10:30AM - 5 PM General Work Samantha 561/372-2359	31				

CALL BEFORE GOING TO OPEN SHOP!!

Always call the shop steward before going to the shop.
 Open shop sessions may be cancelled or changed due to scheduling conflicts.
 If the assigned shop steward cannot be reached, call Susan Cairl, Head Shop Steward, to arrange for open shop.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Open Shop** 12:30-3:30 PM General Work Dennis 561/255-0292	3 Open Shop** 6-9 PM General Work Susan 561/293-1298	4
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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 516/810-3495	\$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.
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.

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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

2018 OFFICERS

President*	Lee Miller	561/389-8584
1st Vice President*	Barbara Ringhiser	561/379-4307
2nd Vice President*	Jennifer Martin	561/281-5466
Secretary*	Lorna Hayes	561/389-8584
Treasurer*	Jenny Wright	561/634-1427

2018 DIRECTORS

Head Shop Steward*	Susan Cairl	561/293-1298
Membership*	Jennifer McIntyre	863/414-1240
Newsletter Editor*	Laura Phillips	561/523-3594
Member-at-Large*	Lo Rain Dudley	561/827-5793
Show Chairman*	Walter Triche	561/628-1031
Webmaster*	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	516/810-3495
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:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-6196330>

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