



The Rockhound

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

www.gemandmineralsociety.org
January 2022 Volume 55 Issue 3

President's Message

I want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! I hope you and yours have been safe and have not caught the Covid virus. If so, prayers that you have recovered and were not very sick.

Thanks to all who volunteered at the show! It was a tremendous success and we did record numbers at the gate, the mine and the raffle. Our Holiday banquet was festive and we welcomed our new Board. I hope this year we can be more active than the last, and will get more members involved.

We plan to have informative and interactive meetings and urge you to attend. Most of our activities, classes, and field trips are announced at these meetings and you get first crack at them there. We will continue with the birthstone challenge, show-and-tell and selling at the meetings. I will have another raffle prize for the most frequent meeting attendance. The more you attend, the more chances you get to win! Don't forget...the workshop is open. This is your shop. Please take advantage of it!

Looking forward to a year of activities, adventures and camaraderie!

- Arlene Lazzaro, President

Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 PM

South Florida Science Center

4800 Dreher Trail North - West Palm Beach 33405

Please wear a mask!

**Guest Speaker: PAUL SAMPSON
HERKIMER DIAMONDS**



Learn about who, why, where, and when these "diamonds" are found. Herkimer diamonds are doubly-terminated quartz crystals, not actual diamonds. They were named as such due to both their clarity and their natural faceting. Herkimer diamond crystals have doubly-terminated points and 18 total faces (six on each point and six around the center).

BIRTHSTONE CHALLENGE

Bring your best piece of garnet for a chance to win this lovely garnet strand and a Herkimer diamond.



SHOW & TELL

Bring what you've been working on!

DOOR PRIZES * SILENT AUCTION

Contact Arlene if you would like to sell at the meeting.

516/810-3495

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!



Renew Online

-or-

Print and Mail

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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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Club Organization

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



The American Federation of Mineral Societies—amfed.org—is an organization of **Regional Federations** as shown above.

We belong to two **Regional Federations**:

- ◆ Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies—amfed.org/efms
- ◆ Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies—amfed.org/sfms

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

- ◆ Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society—fgcgms.com—(Broward County)
- ◆ St. Lucie County Rock and Gem Club—slockandgem.org
- ◆ Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society—treasurecoastrockandgem.org (Indian River County)
- ◆ Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild—mmlg-inc.org

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



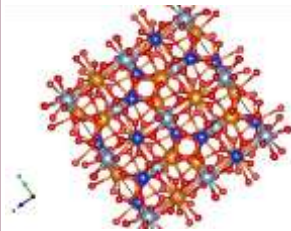
January Birthstone: Garnet

The birthstone for January is the garnet. While most people tend to think of garnets as deep red stones, garnets are found in many different colors from colorless to black.



Photo by Moha 112100 on Wikipedia
See: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>

The word garnet refers to a group of minerals and not just one mineral. Naturally occurring garnets have the general formula $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$ where the X's and Y's are different metals where the X's have a +2 charge and the Y's have a +3 charge. The photo at the top is of Andradite garnet. The drawing at left shows the crystal structure of garnet oriented so that you can see some of the crystal symmetry.



Name	X	Y
Almandine	Fe (iron)	Al (aluminum)
Pyrope	Mg (magnesium)	Al (aluminum)
Spessartine	Mn (manganese)	Al (aluminum)
Andradite	Ca (calcium)	Fe (iron)
Grossular	Ca (calcium)	Al (aluminum)
Uvarovite	Ca (calcium)	Cr (chromium)

Garnets are found all over the world. Closer to home garnets are found in the mountains of Georgia and more widely known in the mountains of North Carolina. The North Carolina garnets tend to be very deep red and are referred to as rhodolite which is a mixture of Pyrope and Almandine. The North Carolina garnets tend to have many inclusions and low clarity but clear garnets are found. The color is

caused by the iron in the almandine. If the stone were absolutely pure pyrope it would be colorless. A Google search for colorless garnet did turn up colorless garnet known as leuco garnet which is very rare and is not pyrope but instead is grossular garnet.

There are many locations in North Carolina where garnets can be found (just Google "Gem mines in North Carolina"). An interesting one is known as the Little Pine Garnet Mine. The Little Pine mine belongs to:

Sandy Bottom Trail Rides
1459 Caney Fork Road
Marshall, NC 28753

Of course this is a 10-12 hour drive depending on the route you take from here and would probably be best done as part of a more extended trip. You get to the mine either on horseback or wagon for the less adventuresome. Anything you find at the mine is yours to keep. They claim that gem quality garnets are found there.

References:

<https://help.thediamondstore.co.uk/gemguides/garnet/>
<https://www.gemselect.com/english/gem-info/garnet/garnet-info.php>
<https://www.sandybottomtrailrides.net/index.php/gem-mine>
<https://geology.com/gemstones/states/north-carolina.shtml>
<https://www.ajsgem.com/articles/rare-leuco-garnet.html>
<https://www.americangemsociety.org/page/januarybirthstone>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garnet>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhodolite>

-Article compiled by Richard Tracey



Sunshine News

Our sincere thanks to all who volunteered at our Annual Show in November!

The current Covid variant Omicron is extremely infectious, and infection rates in South Florida are very high. Some of our members have already experienced it. Keep in mind that many of our members are older and some are immune-compromised. In order to keep us all safe, we kindly ask members and visitors to wear a face mask at this month's meeting. Disposable masks will be available.



Current Palm Beach County Covid Status

Mineral Study Group with K.C. Foster

K.C. Foster will help you identify rocks, minerals or gemstones that you have. Please take a photo or two with a ruler or coin for size. Include basic information on where it was found and what you think it might be. You can email K.C. at: katrinkaper@yahoo.com.



Rockhound Roundup!

February 18-20

9am-4pm

Suwannee River Music Park
Live Oak, Florida

Rough Rocks and Slabs
Polished Stones
Handmade Jewelry for Sale
Lapidary and Silversmithing Tools
and Equipment

*Sponsored by Southeast Federation of
Minerological Societies*

*For more information:
Jeri Heer secretary@southeastfed.org*



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The current newsletter is created in Microsoft Publisher which is part of the Office Suite that runs on both Apple and Windows computers. This is not a requirement but it would make for an easier transition. Other platforms such as Google Documents could be used. If interested, please contact Arlene Lazzaro or any Board member.

Call for Volunteers to Refurbish the Flume

NEEDED: Wordworkers, Measurers, Note Takers, Photographers, Typists, Computer skills: Typing, Layout, and Drawing.

Theme: "Make Our Job Easier" & "How Can We Do It Better"

One planning meeting plus 3-4 work sessions of 3 hours each.

History, Ideas & Plans	<i>Help with whatever you know.</i>
The Benches	<i>Insert bolts/studs for simplicity. Clear numbers.</i>
The Flume	<i>Add bolt-on connections. Clear numbers.</i>
The Canopy	<i>Repair vertical columns. Add bolt-on connections. Number.</i>
Documentation	<i>Prepare clean drawings. Instructions, storage, and price lists.</i>

DESIRED RESULTS:

- ♦A solid, durable flume that is easy to erect, take down, and store safely.
- ♦Complete set of drawings, including assembly, take down, and storage instructions.
- ♦Checklist and Mine Operating Instructions,
- ♦Layout plan for accessories and materials.
- ♦Bold, Clean Price Lists with descriptions of "What you Get".
- ♦Total cost: Less than \$350.

Contact ADRIAN CALLARD

Text 714/651-2727 or Email adricyn@hotmail.com

**PLANNING MEETING Saturday, January 22 at 10:00 AM
Alpine Storage at 900 Barnett Drive, Lake Worth 33461**

GEM & MINERAL CLUB FIELD TRIP

TO THE BOCA MUSEUM OF ART

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022

5:00 PM ENTRY TIME

DON'T MISS THIS WORLD CLASS EXHIBIT

MACHU PICCHU
AND THE GOLDEN EMPIRES OF PERU

3,000 YEARS IN THE MAKING
192 PRICELESS ARTIFACTS
AN IMMERSIVE JOURNEY TO THE ANCIENT KINGDOMS OF PERU

WORLD PREMIERE EXHIBITION
OBJECTS NEVER SEEN BEFORE BY THE PUBLIC

ONE OF THE LARGEST GOLD COLLECTIONS TO EVER TOUR THE GLOBE
TRANSPORT TO MACHU PICCHU IN VIRTUAL REALITY

The central image shows a virtual reality reconstruction of the ancient city of Machu Picchu, with its terraced buildings and lush green terraces set against a backdrop of dark, jagged mountains under a night sky.

DISCOUNTED GROUP* PRICE \$26.50 per person

includes museum entry and audio wand (Regular cost is \$35.95)

We'll eat dinner afterwards at a nearby Peruvian restaurant offering a discount with your exhibit ticket stub.

*** NEED Minimum 12 people prepaid to club ASAP, before January meeting**

Contact Gale Langford to sign up. galelangford@comcast.net • Call or text 561.386.3332

2021 annual show

November 20-21: It was a huge success! We beat our all-time records for Attendance, Net Profit, and Last Chance Mine Sales. We were able to put \$17,000 into our club account, which had been badly depleted in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. MANY THANKS to all who volunteered, especially: Kelly Azor, Adrian Callard, Lo Dudley, Amelia Homa, Angela Juliano, Arlene Lazzaro, Anthony Leong, April Leong, Paul Perryman, Clara Pflueger, Laura Phillips, Dianna Ray, Richard Tracey, and Jenny Wright.

Plans for 2022 include a total refurbishing of the flume. Help is sought in doing the renovations - please see [Page 5](#) for information.



2021 annual show door prize winners



J. Barrera won a large Tampa Bay agatized coral.



Bruna Klapper won a beautiful quartz geode.

FOR SALE



Large buffing machine with metal cabinet. Supplies included. Asking \$250.

**ELAINE DUROW
561/762-9614**

Also - black velvet custom-made table skirts for gem show setup half-long booths. Two 8-foot skirts and one 12-foot skirt. Used only twice. Asking \$50.

2021 holiday Banquet



2022 Officers



2021 Board of Directors



December
11, 2021

South
Florida
Science
Museum



Rare Massive Gem Found on N.C. Farm May Be Worth \$1M

Reprinted from <https://www.geologyin.com/2014/12/rare-massive-gem-found-on-nc-farm-may.html>

A rare massive gem found on a farm in North Carolina could be worth more than a million dollars and tells an interesting geological history of The Tarheel State. The 65-carat emerald was unearthed in the rural community of Hiddenite, about 50 miles Northwest of Charlotte. Gem experts say the emerald, dubbed the Carolina Emperor, could be the biggest ever discovered in North America.



Gem experts say the emerald yielded at a North Carolina farm may be the biggest ever uncovered in North America. (AP)

"What is neat is the really long history we have, and being able to read this through the rocks that aren't gemstones. Once we start reading those rocks you can really start to get an interesting geological imagination to what this place use to really look like."

He says the discovery of rocks and gems in North Carolina, like those in Africa and South America, is proof

Although an emerald this size is an unusual find, one geologist says the prevalence of gemstones here scratches the surface of a rich geological history in North Carolina.

"We can see that really no place on earth today was any more geologically spectacular than North Carolina in the past," said Dr. Kevin Stewart, who has been a professor of Geological Sciences at the University of North Carolina for 28 years.

Geologists believe you can find huge sapphires and emeralds in North Carolina similar to those found in far off places like South America and Africa because the two used to be connected. Stewart's research focuses on the changes in the earth's crust and the plate tectonic history of mountainous areas.

"Emeralds are pretty but the way we read the history of the earth is rocks," Stewart says.

that the seven continents were once attached. Geologists have studied more than a billion years of plate tectonic movement in North Carolina. The Appalachian Mountains in the area used to be the size of the Himalayas, and included huge exploding volcanoes. But the continents eventually pushed apart as the earth's outer shell broke into pieces and moved around.

"So when I'm sitting in my office here in Chapel Hill, it used to be attached to South America," Stewart said.

So while gem-lovers are fascinated by what may be the biggest emerald ever uncovered in North America, scientists in North Carolina are using the new found attention to showcase the state's 1.8-Billion-year-old geological history that is closely connected to far-off places around the world.



GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES, INC.
P.O. Box 18095, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-8095 * gmspb.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*** PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ***

Name 1 _____ Birthday 1 _____
MONTH ONLY

Phone 1 _____ Email 1 _____

Name 2 _____ Birthday 2 _____
MONTH ONLY

Phone 2 _____ Email 2 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Family memberships: Children's names and ages _____

Society-related areas of interest _____

***** PLEASE READ CAREFULLY *****

To qualify for membership, you must be willing to participate and take an active part in the Society's activities, such as attending meetings, display, demonstrate, or serve on various committees at the Annual Show or other Society's functions, and to subscribe to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, which are included in the Membership Roster.

On which of the following committees are you willing to work? If you are not sure what is involved, please feel free to ask any of the Society's officers. Remember that a member is a volunteer.

SOCIETY POSITIONS

- Greeter at meetings (R)
- Teaching classes (U)
- Refreshments at meetings (S)
- Newsletter (V)
- Program Committee (T)

SHOW COMMITTEES

- Ticket takers at door (X)
- Set up/Take down tables (Y) (skirting tables, setting up display cases, load and/or unloading the club truck)
- Demonstrations (Z) (faceting, cabbing, jewelry making, beading, etc.)
- Scholarship auction (AA)

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Junior (to age 18)
- Single
- Family

FOR SOCIETY USE

Date paid _____
 Check Cash Paypal

Shop Talk



The GMSPB Shop is open again! Shop hours are available only to GMSPB members. Shop fees are \$7 for up to three hours, and \$10 for longer. Note that this represents an increase over previous years.

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 Lo Rain Dudley or Lee Miller (numbers listed below).

ALSO IMPORTANT! You must contact the Shop Steward listed below before you come to the Shop. No walk-ins, please.

Masks are not required for fully vaccinated members. If you are not vaccinated, a mask and frequent use of hand sanitizer is required.

The Shop times listed below are approximate and may be negotiated with the Shop Steward on duty at the time.

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 contact Samantha Lazzaro. At the present time, kiln use is limited to Monday Open Shop Hours.

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.

OPEN SHOP HOURS & STEWARDS

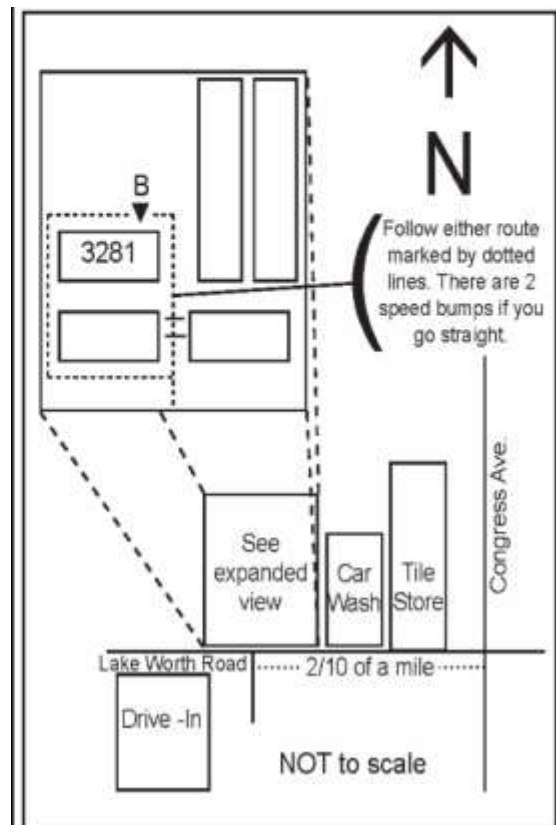
Mondays 10:30am - 5:00pm
Samantha Lazzaro, Shop Steward
631-764-6556

Wednesdays 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Lo Rain Dudley, Shop Steward
561-827-5793

Thursdays 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Dennis Rietwyk & Lee Miller, Shop Stewards
561-329-8872 (Lee)

Fridays 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Lo Rain Dudley, Shop Steward
561-827-5793

Saturdays 10:00 am-2:00 pm
Lee Miller, Shop Steward
561-329-8872



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 Metalsmithing	Debbie Kashdan 561/738-6524	To be determined	Contact instructor to arrange.
Cabochon sessions Six 3-hr sessions	Lee Miller 561/329-8872	\$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! ◇ Black Coral	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 \$50 + \$35 materials fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Enameling	Samantha Lazzaro 561/372-2359	\$40 + \$50 materials fee	Contact instructor to arrange.
Flat Lap	Lee Miller 561/329-8872	\$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.
Viking Knit	Lo Rain Dudley 561/827-5793	Contact instructor for info.	Contact instructor to arrange.
Kumihimo	Lo Rain Dudley 561/827-5793	Contact instructor for info.	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 - \$7
Over 3 hours shop time - \$10

SEE CALENDAR FOR OPEN SHOPS

SHOP STEWARDS

Head Shop Steward:

Lee Miller 561/329-8872
Dennis Rietwyk 561/255-0292
Samantha Lazzaro 561/372-2359
Lo Rain Dudley 561-827-5793

Shop Phone:
561/585-2080

2022 OFFICERS

President*	Arlene Lazzaro	516/810-3495
1st Vice President*	Anthony Leong	561/252-1329
2nd Vice President*	Gale Langford	561/386-3332
Secretary*	Sheila Krichman	561/638-3875
Treasurer*	Jenny Wright	561/634-1427

2022 DIRECTORS

Head Shop Steward*	Lee Miller	561/329-8872
Membership*	Laura Phillips	561/523-3594
Newsletter Editor*	Laura Phillips (Acting)	561/523-3594
Member-at-Large*	Lo Rain Dudley	561/827-5793
Show Chairman*	Open	
Webmaster*	Richard Tracey	561/318-6891

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

Hostess	Samantha Lazzaro	561/372-2359
Jr. Rockhound Program	Open	
Librarian	Shop Steward on Duty	
Refreshments	Angela Juliano	561/665-0496
Sunshine Committee	Jenny Wright	561/634-1427
Social Events	Cynthia Callard	714/561-2998
Webmaster	Richard Tracey	561/318-6891

*Denotes a Voting Member of the Executive Committee.

WEBSITE

www.gemandmineralsociety.org or www.gmspb.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.

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches ("GMSPB"). GMSPB does not verify any claims made for accuracy, and is not responsible for the views expressed. Nothing contained herein constitutes any sort of professional advice, including but not limited to legal, medical, or financial advice. Any action you take based on information published in The Rockhound is strictly at your own risk.

Send comments or submissions to newsletter@gmail.com