

OCTOBER 2026 | ISSUE NO. 1

THE ROCKHOUND



GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES

THE ROCKHOUND

THE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES, INC.

What's inside:

MEMBER UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S GEMSTONE: OPAL AND TOURMALINE
UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES

MEMBER FEATURE

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP: MUDSLINGERS, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

Thursday, October 15 @ 7:00 PM

STEM Bldg. 4800 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach, 33405
(Across from the Cox Science Center)

Guest Speaker: Dr. Anton Oleinik

Topic: Fossil Windfall at Antarctica's Edge

Summary: A small island off the coast of Antarctic Peninsula, free of a permanent ice cap and devoid of vegetation. A 100% geologic exposure of the late Cretaceous and Early Tertiary marine fossiliferous sedimentary rocks. The interval of geologic time spans from the Latest Cretaceous to earliest Oligocene. Rocks are loosely consolidated and contain a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils. Fossils are nearly perfectly preserved in most cases. Study of these fossils presents an interesting picture of the life on the "southern icy continent" before it became truly icebound

ROCKHOUND CHALLENGE PRIZE: HEMATITE AND OPALESCENT AMMONITES

SHOW & TELL****DOOR PRIZES*****SILENT AUCTION

President's message

----- Arlene Lazzaro

Hi Members! Can't believe how fast the year has gone by! I want to welcome the new members to our club and hope they take advantage of all that we have to offer as a member! Our workshop is thriving with new lapidarists and classes! We are always willing to answer any questions you may have about the club or the Work Shop, please refer to contact info on the website, GMSPB.org.

As November quickly approaches, I want to remind everyone of the club's Annual Gem Show, November 21st and 22nd. It is always the weekend before Thanksgiving! As a member, I have always felt it was an obligation to volunteer for our show! This is what keeps our club going!

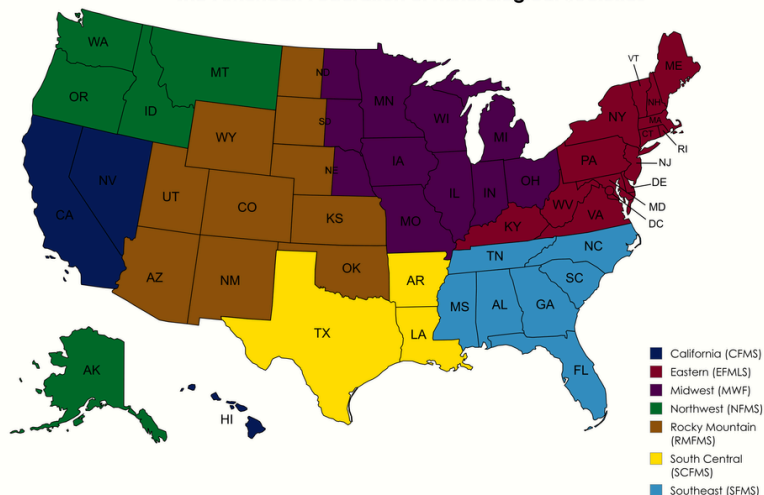
If you have a skill, demonstrate! If you have a collection, please be a part of our displays. If you are outgoing and talkative, please sell tickets for our scholarship raffle or work at the silent auction. If you love kids, the exploration station or the mine are the places...

(Cont'd on page 4)



ABOUT US

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER/SPEAKER

BIRTHSTONE: OPAL

BIRTHSTONE: TOURMALINE

MEMBER UPDATE

MEMBER FEATURE

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CLUB ORGANIZATION

The American Federation of Mineral Societies (amfed.org) is an organization of regional federations as shown above. We belong to the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies.

The Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.* has several Neighbor Clubs:

- Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society (Broward County)
- St. Lucie County Rock and Gem Club
- Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society (Indian River County)
- Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild

*The Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. is a Florida 501(c)(3) Corporation

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.



DR. ANTON OLEINIK

Anton E. Oleinik, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor under the Department of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University. His research interests span stratigraphy, paleontology, paleoecology, taphonomy, paleobiogeography, mollusk biodiversity and ecology, and sedimentary geology, with emphasis on shallow water environment and habitats.

His role as a Geoscientist allows him to take a step back into Earth's history, examining the events of the past, to make predictions about its future. His work includes paleoecological surveys of Late Holocene subfossil coral assemblages known as 'Pompano Ridge' (2024), and the spread of invasive *Naria turdus* (*N. turdus*), a sea snail, also known as 'thrush cowrie', from the Indian Ocean to Florida (2023).

Oleinik was also part of a team of researchers exploring terminal-Cretaceous surge deposits in North Dakota, which furthers understanding about how the Chicxulub impact affected life on earth (2019).



President's message

(Cont'd from page 1)...you want to be! Those who are shy and don't want to be in the thick of it, ticket takers, security, or exit door are not challenging.

We also need help setting up on Thursday and Friday! Please keep these dates open! We're excited to say we have a wonderful group of vendors participating and are sure they'll have something for anyone that attends! Please promote our event at work and all your other activities! Please save the date, Thursday, December 17th, for our Holiday Banquet! If you volunteer for 6 hours, the club will pay for your dinner! A feast awaits, as well as a really fun evening!!

I'd also like to acknowledge that you wouldn't be reading this letter if it wasn't for one of our members, Khadéjah Richards, who graciously volunteered for this endeavor!! Thank you! Read on and enjoy this wonderful Newsletter!



Editor's Note: I'm pleased to share what I have been able to compile this edition. Reviving this newsletter would not have been possible without the help of current Board Members, and their extensive network and resources. Special thanks to Bonnie Kamp for creating this issue's crossword puzzle. Newsletter submissions for photographs, articles, notices and club related activities are welcome at newsletter@gmspb.org.



PHOTO CREDIT: KIRSTEN STAINBACK

OPAL: OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE

Sometimes called the 'Queen of Gemstones', Opal has a long history as a prized gemstone. In Ancient Rome, 'opallios' was adorned as a symbol of purity and hope. The Greeks believed 'upala' held the powers of prophecy and foresight, and in Asia, they were prized for perceived healing powers. By the nineteenth century, many believed opals would only bring good luck if the wearer was born in October.

Opals stand out from other gemstones because of a special property called 'opalescence', or 'play-of-color'. At first glance, some (precious) opals appear to have many colors, leading early discoverers to believe it contained smaller stones within. Not every opal is considered precious, and those that lack these features are called 'common opal'.

But remember, opal doesn't fit the definition of a true mineral very neatly. It doesn't have the required crystal structure formed by geologic influence. Instead, opal is considered a mineraloid. Opal forms when silica-rich water between sedimentary rocks evaporates, accumulating silica layers over millions of years. Silica-rich water can even penetrate wood, seashells and skeletons, creating opalized fossils!

Opals are the national gemstone of Australia for good reason. Over 90% of all the opals today come from Australian mines, where a variety of other precious gemstones such as garnet, sapphire and emeralds. Notable opal deposits are found in countries such as Mexico, Ethiopia, Peru, Honduras, and Brazil for which their unique opals are named. In the US, opal deposits can be found in Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada and Oregon.



GEM FACTS

Chemical Formula	SiO ₂ ·nH ₂ O	Specific Gravity	2.15 (+0.08, -0.90)
Color	All: Black (rare), white (common)	Crystal System	Amorphous
Mohs Hardness	5.0 to 6.5	Refractive Index	1.450(+0.020,-0.080)
Luster	Vitreous to Waxy	Cleavage	Conchoidal
Streak	White	Fracture	None
Transparency	Varies	Optical effects	Opalescence



Opals have long been considered the birthstone of October, even before the original release of the list by the American National Retail Jeweler's Association in 1912. It has only been updated three times since, and the first update in 1952 added Tourmaline for October. Some sources say this was because opals are difficult to facet, while others say it was due to the growing popularity and interest in tourmaline. But long before mineralogists identified tourmaline as its own mineral species in the 1800s, varieties of the prized gemstones were traded, sometimes mistakenly as other known minerals.

Tourmaline isn't just one mineral. Tourmaline is a family of different minerals with the same crystal structure but varying chemical and physical properties. All tourmalines contain silicon, aluminum, boron, hydrogen and/or fluorine but differ when combined with complex mixtures of other elements such as sodium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, manganese, iron, chromium, and copper. This variation results in distinct tourmaline varieties which are known by different names.

Elbaite is easily the most popular variety since its appearance varies from green, blue, red, pink, and colorless, or as a combination of colors. Other varieties include liddicoatite (parti-colored), dravite (brown), uvite (green to reddish brown), and schorl (black). These can occur together, producing stunning specimens that appear as other popular minerals such as emerald and ruby. Savanna tourmalines appear yellow to orange, and are a mixture of dravite and uvite, along with iron. Watermelon tourmaline is a type of elbaite that has a pink core surrounded by green edges.

Deposits of tourmaline are found in igneous rocks such as granite (pegmatites) and metamorphic rocks such as schist and marble. In the United States, large deposits can be found in Maine and California. Brazil produces tourmalines of every color, even rare copper-containing tourmalines known as Paraíba tourmaline. Tourmaline is also found in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Congo, Kenya, Madagascar, Kenya and Tanzania.

Tourmalines aren't just sought after for their beauty; they play an important role in our modern society. Tourmaline is piezoelectric, meaning when stress is applied, it generates an electric charge. Today, they're used to make sensors for testing equipment and medical imaging, as well as sound devices for submarines and other military equipment. Researchers are even looking into its usefulness in countering environmental pollution, as it releases rare microelements which support microorganisms and plants.

TOURMALINE

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE

GEM FACTS

Chemical Formula	$XY_3Z_6(T_6O_{18})(BO_3)_3V_3W$	Specific Gravity	3.06 (+0.20, -0.06)
Color	All: Black (common), bi-color	Crystal System	Trigonal
Hardness	7.0 to 7.5	Refractive Index	1.624 to 1.644
Luster	Vitreous, sometimes resinous	Cleavage	Indistinct
Streak	White	Fracture	Uneven, small conchoidal
Transparency	Varies	Optical effects	Chatoyancy, Pleochroism

It's this same piezoelectricity that causes tourmalines to get dusty easily. The Dutch noticed this property early, calling them 'aschentreckers' for their ability to pull ashes out of tobacco pipes.



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP: SANTA FE COLLEGE MUSEUM OF EARTH SCIENCE



WHAT'S ROCKIN' MEMBER UPDATE

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MEMBER UPDATE

CONT'D



FIESTA FESTIVITIES

The theme for this year's Annual Auction/Dinner was Fiesta! This event is open to the entire family, with this year's festivities featuring everyone's favorite Latin foods, drinks, and deserts.

Members and friends of the club played games, enjoyed giveaways and participated in the auction.



ROCKIN' GUESS

Guess how many tourmalines are in the jar?

Daniel's lucky guess won him a blue Celestine specimen. When it's not in crystal form, Celestine is a key component in fireworks, and even sensitive toothpaste.



GEODE EARRINGS

Members learn how to make Tabasco Geode earrings with Argentium Silver with Arlene Lazarro.

Tabasco Geodes are among the smallest in the world. Argentium silver contains Germanium (Ge), which improves its hardness and tarnish resistance.

2026 MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to Ben Taylor, a Geology Major at the University of South Florida, with two minors in GIS and Environmental Science.

Ben's August 2026 presentation explored the Common Cause Theory of The Great Unconformity. [The Great Unconformity](#) is a gap in the Earth's geological record of over a billion years due to erosion and/or non-deposition.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- KELLY AZOR
- DENISE CASSELMAN
- BARBI DUNAWAY
- LINDA HERSH
- DEBORAH KACHMAN
- ARLENE LAZZARO
- JOHN LITWINKA
- SUSAN LITWINKA
- WILLIAM PAPAGEORGE
- DENISE ROSS
- BRANDON TRUJILLO
- JOHN WARLICK

MEMBER UPDATE

CONT'D



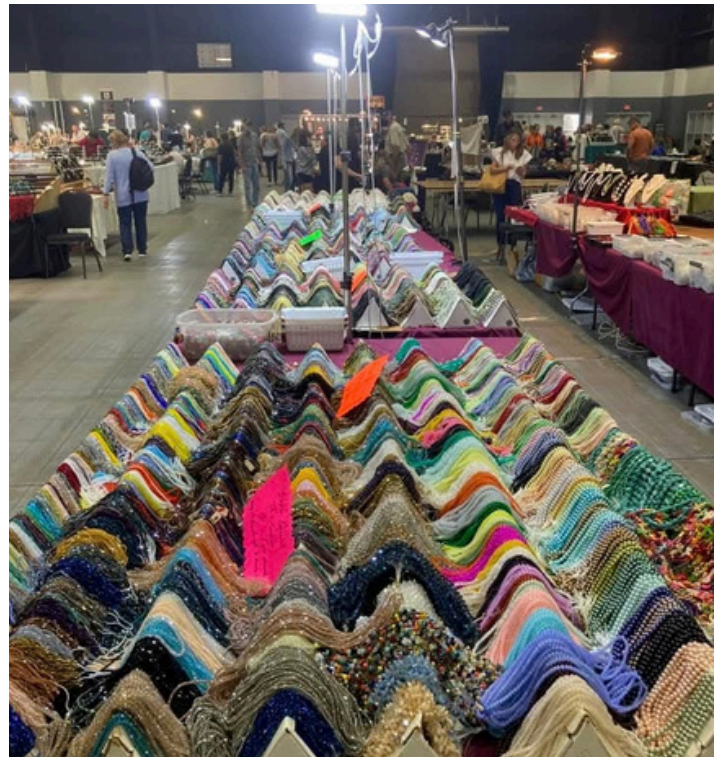
SEPTEMBER 2026 FIELD TRIP: GAINESVILLE, FL



Club members enjoy a weekend collecting fossils along the Peace River, and with Mudslingers in Gainesville, Florida. The group visited Sante Fe College's Museum of Earth Science where they met with Dave Wooley, retired Geologist, and curator at the exhibit. The campus is also home to the SF Jean Klein Rock Cycle Garden, an exhibit featuring igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks in sequential order.

2025 ANNUAL SHOW HIGHLIGHTS





MEMBER FEATURE



PAMELA HENDERSON

aka 'Pam'; GMSPB Webmaster and Membership Coordinator

Although she was already a member of another gem society in Texas, Pamela's love for gemology, geology, and "all the other 'ologies" led her to the Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. four years ago. Her interest in rocks and minerals started as a child when she found a piece of obsidian in the load of gravel her father bought for their driveway. Curious about her find, she brought it to her teacher, and the rest was history.

Pam now lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, working in Customer Service, and is still an active member of this club! When she isn't working, or performing her duties as the club's Webmaster and Membership Coordinator, she's practicing piano, spending time with family and friends, and playing Minecraft, where she's built a train bridge made of amethyst (her birthstone) and deep slate tiles.

Pamela isn't just a virtual builder: she's currently re-upholstering her couch, learning to make chainmail (with special thanks to Paul Perryman) and working on jewelry with hopes of branching out into armor. Pam also enjoys writing, drawing inspiration from Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice', as she co-authors a book with her sister called "A Time To Dance", set to release on Amazon and Audible early 2027.

For Pam, getting involved is the best way to live. She's found lifelong friends at the GMSPB who share her passions, and shaped lasting memories. Her favorite club-memory is throwing crepe paper at the Annual Holiday Party, held every December. Her advice to newcomers is "Don't be shy, go up to someone new and say hi!"

DIGGING DEEPER WITH PAMELA

Q: What's the most unusual thing you've ever found?

A: A rock specimen that looks like a peach pit (pictured above)

Q: If you could recommend one location to explore/dig for newcomers, where would you send them? Why?

A: Board Camp Crystal Mine in Mena, Arkansas. They help you find pure quartz crystals AND they have a great UFO experience!

Q: If you could be one rock, what would it be? Why?

A: I would be an Ametrine because it symbolizes health and healing as well as prosperity and security. I try to promote the importance of these things in myself and others.

Q: What flavor would your favorite rock be?

A: Mountain Dew. LOL

Q: What state has the best geology?

A: I guess that would depend on what you wish to collect. My favorite two collecting experiences where with my late husband, one in Texas and one in Arkansas. Both trips resulted in many quartz finds. Next after ametrine, my favorite specimen will always be quartz of any kind.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world to find rocks or fossils, where would you go?

A: Madagascar, Brazil, or Afghanistan

Q: What's the first specimen you've ever collected?

A: After the obsidian glass I found as a teenager (which I also lost as a teenager), my first crystal was a Smokey Quartz sphere that I carried in my pocket for a long time as a worry stone.



SHOP STEWARDS

Arlene Lazzaro (516) 810-3495
Samantha Lazzaro (631) 764-6556
Sarah Mayo (307) 248-1687
Clara Pflueger (201) 566-6492
Bonnie Kamp (561) 308-8068

Monday

(Samantha)

10:30 am to 5:30 pm

(Clara)

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Wednesday

(1st and 3rd)

(Bonnie)

10:30 am to 5:30 pm

Thursday

(Sarah)

2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Friday

(Clara)

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturday

(every other, starting 10/24)

(Samantha)

10:30 am to 5:30 pm

MEMBER SHOP FEES

Up to 3 hours: \$10
3 Hours or more: \$15

SHOP ADDRESS

3281 Lake Worth Road, Suite B,
Lake Worth, FL 33461

SHOP PHONE

561-585-2080

SHOP TALK

- Open shop is available for lapidary, metal work, enameling, fused glass, classes, and to use the library.
(Certification required: contact Samantha Lazzaro)

- Always contact the Shop Steward before heading to the Shop. The times listed below are approximate and may be negotiated with the Shop Steward on duty.

- Members **must** complete a 6-class Certification Class before using the cabbing equipment. This class runs for six consecutive weeks for three hours each week to provide safety instructions and cabbing techniques.

For information on cabbing certification, contact Samantha or Arlene Lazzaro.

- Upon arrival, you will be asked to sign a one-time liability waiver and be given a copy of the shop rules. Members are expected to clean up after their work session.
- Always sign in and out of the log book and complete the information on the sign-in sheet.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Classes are held year-round. Interested members are encouraged to contact the shop, or check the website's calendar for scheduling and fees.

- Cabochon Classes
- Black Coral Class
- Beginner and Advanced Silver Smithing
- Metal Etching Workshop
- Cold Connections with Mixed Metals
- Wire Working Class and Wire Wrapping Class
- Tabasco Geode Earrings with Argentium Silver
- Painting Rock Garden Mandalas Workshop
- Rock Wrapping Workshop

THE 59TH ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2026



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- SETUP CREW/TAKE DOWN CREW
- TICKET TAKERS
- INFORMATION TABLE
- SHOW SECURITY
- SILENT AUCTION
- SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE
- DEMONSTRATIONS
- LUNCH SET UP

SIGN UP TODAY:

The weekend of our annual show is just around the corner. If you're interested in volunteering, the time to sign up is now.

A list of volunteer positions and the duties required is included in the resource page of this newsletter. You can make a difference!

Without you, our society members, it would be impossible to fill the many slots necessary to make this year's show the best one yet! Over 200 volunteer shifts need to be filled. The club cannot run without the proceeds from the show.

If you know high school students who would like to volunteer, let them know volunteering for our show will give them community service hours. We sign forms! Volunteers also receive free admission to the show for volunteering at least 2 hours. Volunteering 6 hours or more guarantees free entrance to the **Holiday Banquet and Installation Dinner** on **December 17th!**



The Gem & Mineral Society of
the Palm Beaches 59th Annual

Gem • Mineral Jewelry • Bead & Fossil SHOW

NOVEMBER 21 & 22, 2026

SAT 9 AM to 6 PM
SUN 10 AM to 5 PM



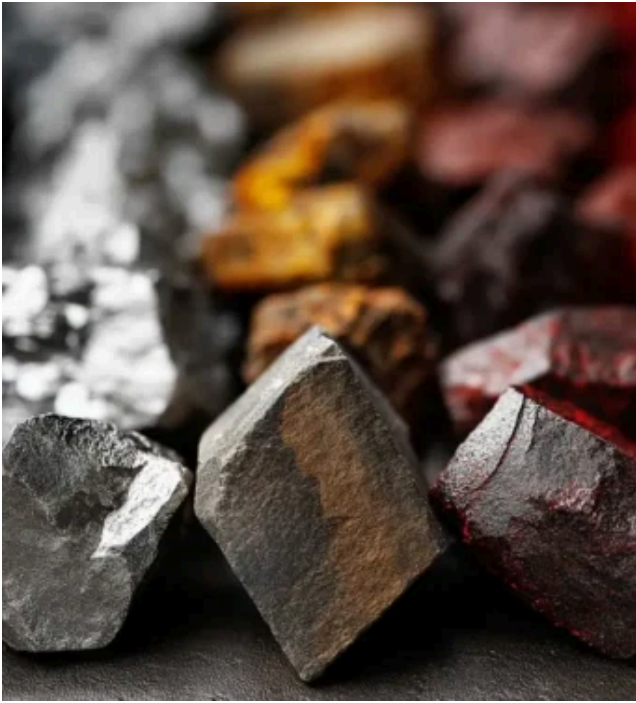
South Florida Fairgrounds, EXPO Center East
9067 Southern Blvd • W Palm Beach, Florida **Free Parking**

EXHIBITS • SPEAKERS • GEM & FOSSIL MINING • GEODE CRACKING
DEMONSTRATIONS • PRIZE DRAWINGS • SILENT AUCTION - *and more*

ADULTS \$11
2-Day Pass \$16
Children
under 12 Free

Good for \$1.00 OFF
ONE ADULT Admission
Limit One Coupon per Person
Not valid with any other discount

JINXIUIITE-THE NEWEST MINERAL



Jinxiuite was officially classified as a new mineral under the International Mineralogical Association's commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification after the 2025 discovery by Chinese geologists. The new mineral was named for its discovery in the Longhua nickel-cobalt deposit, located in Jinxiu Yao Autonomous County, a mountainous area in Guangxi, southern China. Jinxiuite, $\text{Ni}_{18}\text{Bi}_2\text{SbAsS}_{16}$, has the potential to be used as an indicator mineral for exploration, and could indicate the presence of other minerals of greater economic value. Scientists are hopeful this discovery could improve battery materials and industries such as aerospace and chemical manufacturing, but research is still in early stages.

These discoveries offer clues into the Earth's formation, and inspire the creation of more resilient alloys. [Learn how geologists confirm the existence of a mineral never before seen in one of the richest deposits on the planet](#)

ANCIENT CROCODILES WITH STRONGER JAWS



Eosphorosuchus lacrimosa is an ancient crocodile relative that lived over 200 million years ago in modern New Mexico. These reptiles had short snouts, and were heavily built with strong jaws for snapping shut on prey. They lived during the Late Triassic and were a strong rival for the dinosaurs of the time. [This is what Yale Paleontologists have to say.](#)



GIANT FOSSILIZED ARMADILLO FOUND IN FLORIDA

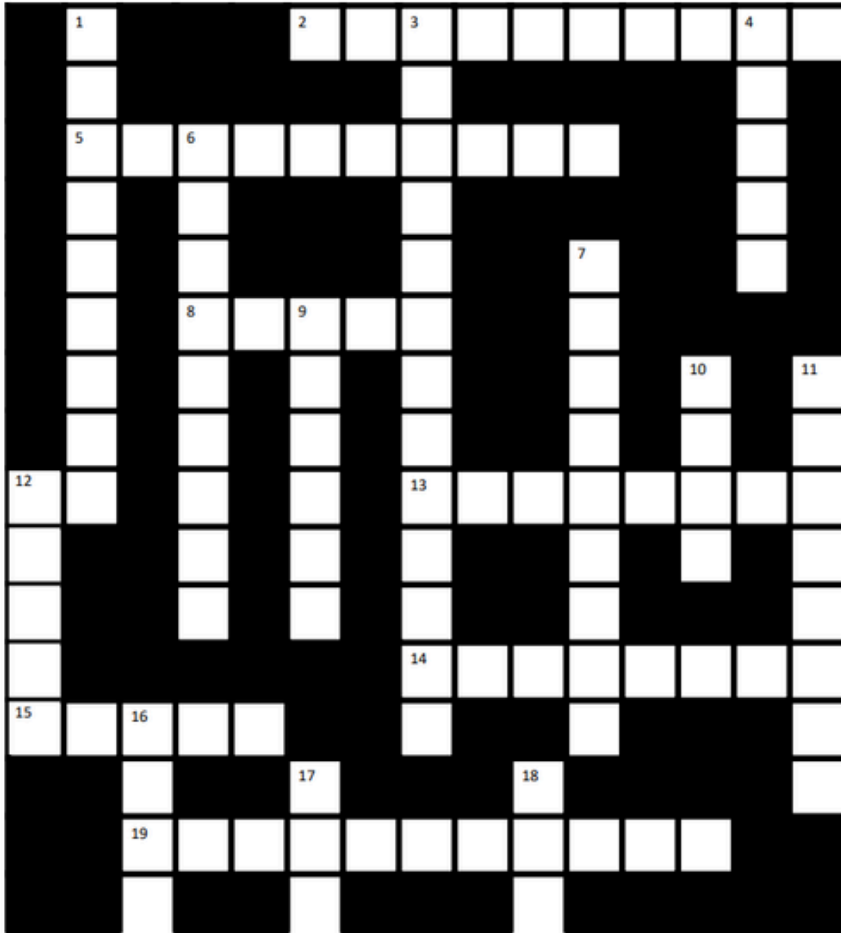
Dr. Bob Sinibaldi from the Tampa Bay Fossil Club made the discovery in North Florida's Steinhatchee River in June 2026. It's the most complete giant armadillo from the Ice Age ever found in North America, weighing about 500 lbs. Compare that to today's armadillos which weigh between 3-6 lbs!



Florida is popular for its Ice age fossils, with everything from shark teeth to dinosaurs, but Sinibaldi knew this find was significant. The University of Florida will retain the fossil for further research and displaying. [Learn more about the giant armadillo that gives us a glimpse into Florida's prehistoric past.](#)



OCTOBER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. Scientific word used to describe the optical shimmer of a tiger eye stone
5. Gemstone most often associated with love (2 words)
8. December birthstone
12. The symbol for germanium on the periodic table
13. The cut of stone that is usually flat on the bottom and domed on top
14. The most popular purple gemstone in the world
15. A mineral family of "beryllium" ("hint") aluminum silicate that forms gemstones like emerald and aquamarine
19. A sky colored calcium carbonate that is often used for calming and energy restoration

DOWN

1. Opaque blue to green mineral made of hydrated copper and aluminum phosphate. Often used in Native American jewelry
3. Florida's state stone (2 words)
4. Most common type of natural quartz
6. A tricolor concretion of aragonite (brown), calcite (yellow) and limestone (grey). Sometimes called dragon stone
7. A rare blue-violet gemstone found exclusively in "Tanzania" ("hint") near Mount Kilimanjaro
9. Often called fools gold
10. Hardness scale for stones
11. Hardest pure metal on earth
12. Initials for the best damn rock club in the world
16. Precious red gemstone made of corundum
17. A precious or semi-precious stone that has been cut or polished
18. A nickname for diamond

(Find solutions in Resources Page)



Critical Mineral *Color by Number*

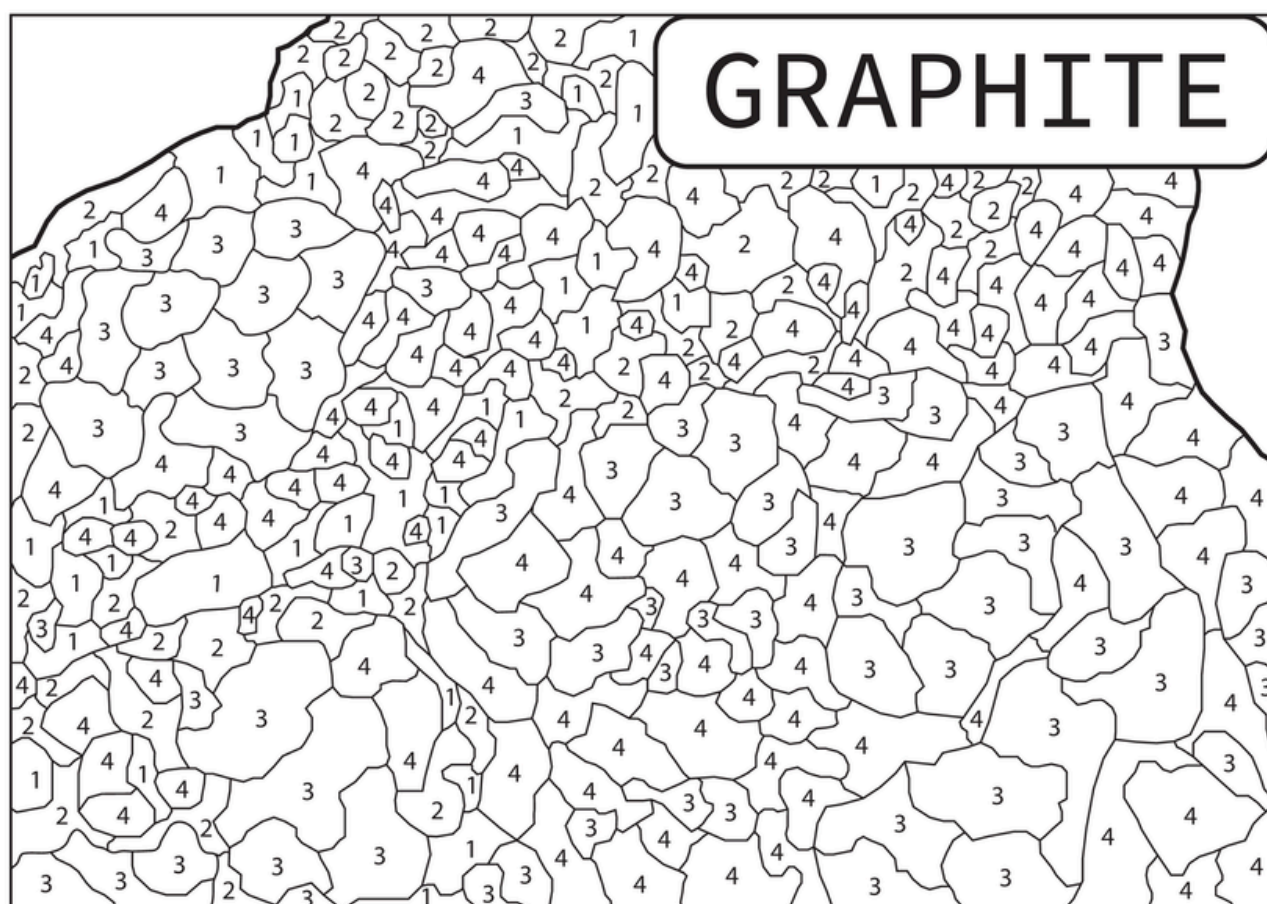
Color the areas using the code below.

1 - pink

2 - light pink

3 - black

4 - gray



Behold! The mineral **graphite** (graf-ite), black areas, found in a rock called **pegmatite** (peg-ma-tite). Pegmatite is an igneous rock that has LARGE crystals. This sample has large **quartz** crystals (gray) and large **alkali feldspar** crystals (pinks). Car brakes, machine lubricant, lithium-ion batteries, and pencil "lead" use graphite. Graphite is also used in lightweight armor for people and vehicles, and in high-temperature furnaces for making steel.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

[1] www.usgs.gov/programs/mineral-resources-program/science/about-2025-list-critical-minerals
[2] www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/graphite-statistics-and-information

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society
BI-ANNUAL TRI-COUNTY PICNIC
 Plantation Heritage Park, Pavilion 1
Sunday, November 8th, 2026



THE EVENT






The FGCGMS society's biannual picnic is on so mark your calendars .
"LOTS OF FUN, BECAUSE WE ROCK"

Event Highlights

- **Bingo with Prizes!**
All prizes are hobby-related, so come ready to play and win!
- **Raffle with Prizes!**
More exciting hobby-related prizes up for grabs! Raffle ticket sales will help cover the cost of the pavilion and supplies.
- **Food & Refreshments**
The three clubs will provide the main meats. We ask everyone to bring a **salad, appetizer, veggie, or dessert** to share. Utensils, plates, drinks, and coffee will be supplied by the Broward club.
- **Buy, Sell, or Trade!**
Bring your **rocks, minerals, gems, jewelry, and more** to sell or trade. All three clubs and their members—please bring your own tables!
- **Donations Welcome!**
We appreciate any donations to help make this event a success. **Those planning to sell or have a table, we do ask that you bring a mineral/rock donation for the raffle.** Thank you
- **Reminder: No Glass Containers Allowed in the Park!**

Looking forward to a great time with everyone! See you there!

WHEN:
 The Tri-County Picnic will be held on **Sunday, November 8th 2026, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.**

LOCATION:
 at Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S Fig Tree Lane, Plantation, FL, 33317, Pavilion/Shelter 1 – on West Side of Park and just north of Entrance Gate

OTHER PARK DETAILS:
 Shelter/Pavilion: We will be at Pavilion/Shelter #1 from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Gate Fee: Yes - The weekend and holiday gate entrance fee of \$3/vehicle (for 8 or fewer persons) and \$20/vehicle (for 9 or more persons) will be in effect. Entry is free for persons who walk or ride bicycles into the park.




QUESTIONS:
 Have a question, contact, Julio at 786-603-8081, Susan Anderson at 954-559-9198. **SEE YOU THERE**

Jewelry Rock & Gem SHOW

PRESENTED BY ST. LUCIE COUNTY ROCK & GEM CLUB

Saturday, October 17, 2026
9am - 5pm

Sunday, October 18, 2026
10am - 4pm

MIDFLORIDA Event Center

9221 S.E Civic Center Place, Port St. Lucie

Admission: \$6 at door
 Children w/ Adult: Free

Visit the website for a \$1.00 off coupon!



Custom-designed, Handcrafted Jewelry
Gemstones ♦ Beads ♦ Rocks ♦ Minerals ♦ Slabs
Tools ♦ Supplies ♦ Demonstrations ♦ Raffles

NOTICES

- The National Park's Service 17th National Fossil Day is Wednesday October 14, 2026. Celebrate with paleontologists, students and hobbyists online, or with those around you!
- Jon Kramer from Pacific Geo Lab is researching the history of the old Rucks Pit in Okeechobee County, Florida. He would like to get in touch with people who worked there, or have photos of the old workings. **Get in touch: sundialjon@gmail.com**
- Arlene's cell phone went missing at our August meeting. If anyone found it, reach out at **president@gmspb.org**.
- Permanent membership name badges are still available to interested members. Contact Gale Langford to place your order.
- **Renew your club membership for 2027 online, or complete a physical form.** Physical forms are available at every meeting, and can also be mailed. (PO Box 18095, West Palm Beach, FL 33416)

COLOSSAL CRYSTAL SHOWCASE

Gillepsie Museum, Steson University, DeLand, Florida
 (now open Tuesday-Friday, 10AM-4PM)

Exhibit highlights include a 6ft tall Amethyst vug, a 200lb Feldspar crystal, and the largest natural Blue Topaz crystal on display anywhere in the world. Visitors also get a chance to observe a 128-lb cubic galena crystal, a massive feldspar crystal weighing more than 200lb, and various specimens of garnet, rhodochrosite, fluorite, and more.

Members are invited to participate in guided walks through indoor and outdoor exhibits, participate in hands-on activities and enjoy picnicking on museum grounds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD

BETTER FAMILIES THROUGH TAE KWON DO
(behind the Big Cheese restaurant)

VENDORS SELLING:
GEMS • MINERALS • JEWELRY • FOSSILS • ROCKS • CRYSTALS & MORE

Admission \$10
(Children under 12 Free with paid adult)
Free Parking!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mineral displays & exhibits
- Engaging children's activities
- Gem mining sluice
- Geode cutting
- Vendors featuring a variety of gems, minerals, jewelry and crafts.

6723 SW 81st St
Miami, FL 33143

www.MiamiGemShow.com
MiamiGemShow@gmail.com




53rd 2026 Annual Crystal, Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show

Parade of Gems

hosted by
Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society
at the Melbourne Auditorium
625 E Hibiscus Ave, Melbourne, FL 32901

Saturday, November 14th
10am - 5pm
Sunday, November 15th
10am - 4pm



Gemorama

Plant City, FL Gem and Mineral Show

10 am to 6 pm Friday and Saturday 10 am to 5 pm Sunday

October 9-11, 2026

Teco Expo Hall-Strawberry Festival Grounds
2301 W Oak Ave. Plant City, FL 33563

Join Us To Find:

- Fine Jewelry -Jewelry Mountings
- Loose Gemstones -Mineral Specimens
- Beads.....And More!!!




VENICE SHARKS TOOTH FESTIVAL

Shark Tooth Capital of the World!

Save the date for April 10-11, 2027

***** VENDORS *****
For the 2027 festival, the application will be available online in mid-December 2026. Please check back here at that time. Thanks!

Hosted by: Venice MainStreet



63rd ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

Delaware's Premier Earth Science Show



March 6 - 7, 2027
Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 11am - 5pm

DoubleTree by Hilton
4727 Concord Pike (Rt. 202)
Wilmington, DE 19803

Tickets only sold at the door
Adults (18-59): \$7
Seniors (60+): \$6
Juniors (12-17): \$4
Children under 12 or Scouts in Uniform: Free with Paying Adult

Exhibits, Demonstrations, Raffle Prizes, Junior Booth for Kids

DMSrocks.org
19 Dealers of Fossils, Fluorescents, Crystal Specimens, Minerals, Gems, and Jewelry



Proceeds support the DE Mineralogical Society, a non-profit group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Florida mineral clubs: Show this flyer to get \$1 off general admission!

67th annual Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club
Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
November 7-8, 2026

- Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center, 4800 U.S. 301 N, Tampa, FL
- Adults \$8, seniors and military \$7, kids 12 and under free.
- Venue Parking: \$12. Pre-purchase parking pass for \$10. Enter via MLK Blvd. entrance.
- Over 60 vendors with minerals, jewelry, gemstones, slabs, fossils, beads, cabochons, kids activities, and more.

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Parking pre-purchase tampabayrockclub.org/show-information

- **Cabochon Cutting** with Arlene or Samatha Lazarro. **ONGOING.** Contact Arlene 516-810-3495 or Samantha 631-764-6556 for details. Schedule: 516-810-3495.
- **Beginner & Advanced Silver Smithing** with Debbie Kashdan. Advance your skills with Debbie's expertise. All day class. Contact Debbie for info: 561-351-8309

FLORIDA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OPEN HOUSE 2026
FRIDAY, OCT. 16 • 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. • FOR ALL AGES



EXPLORE

- Experiment with water and sand to generate stream features we find in Florida.
- Walk through geologic time.
- Dig for minerals.
- Discover how to create an evaporite mineral.
- See Florida shark fossils including Megalodon teeth.



INTERACT

- Visit the Walter Schmidt Museum of Florida Geology and see the rocks, minerals and fossils on display.
- Use microscopes to view rocks and fossils.
- Try on our safety gear.
- Take a picture with the FGS Drill Rig.



LEARN

- Understand how geology impacts your life.
- Learn about critical minerals used in our society.
- Ask how the FGS supports national efforts to identify critical minerals in Florida.
- Observe fluorescent minerals.



ALSO ON-SITE: AUCILLA RESEARCH INSTITUTE • LAKE JACKSON AQUATIC PRESERVE
NORTH FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER • KONA ICE

FloridaDEP.gov/EarthScience

3000 Commonwealth Blvd., Suite 1
Tallahassee, FL 32303
FloridaDEP.gov/EarthScience • 850-617-0300



RUCKS PIT MINE, OKEECHOBEE, FL



The inaugural Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Festival was such a success that the organizers are thinking about running the event twice a year (October and March)!

The next dig is scheduled for March 17-21, 2027. The dig is not difficult, and only requires hand tools. Staff is there to assist throughout the day, and if you don't leave with a smile, you get your money back and a free crystal clam!

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

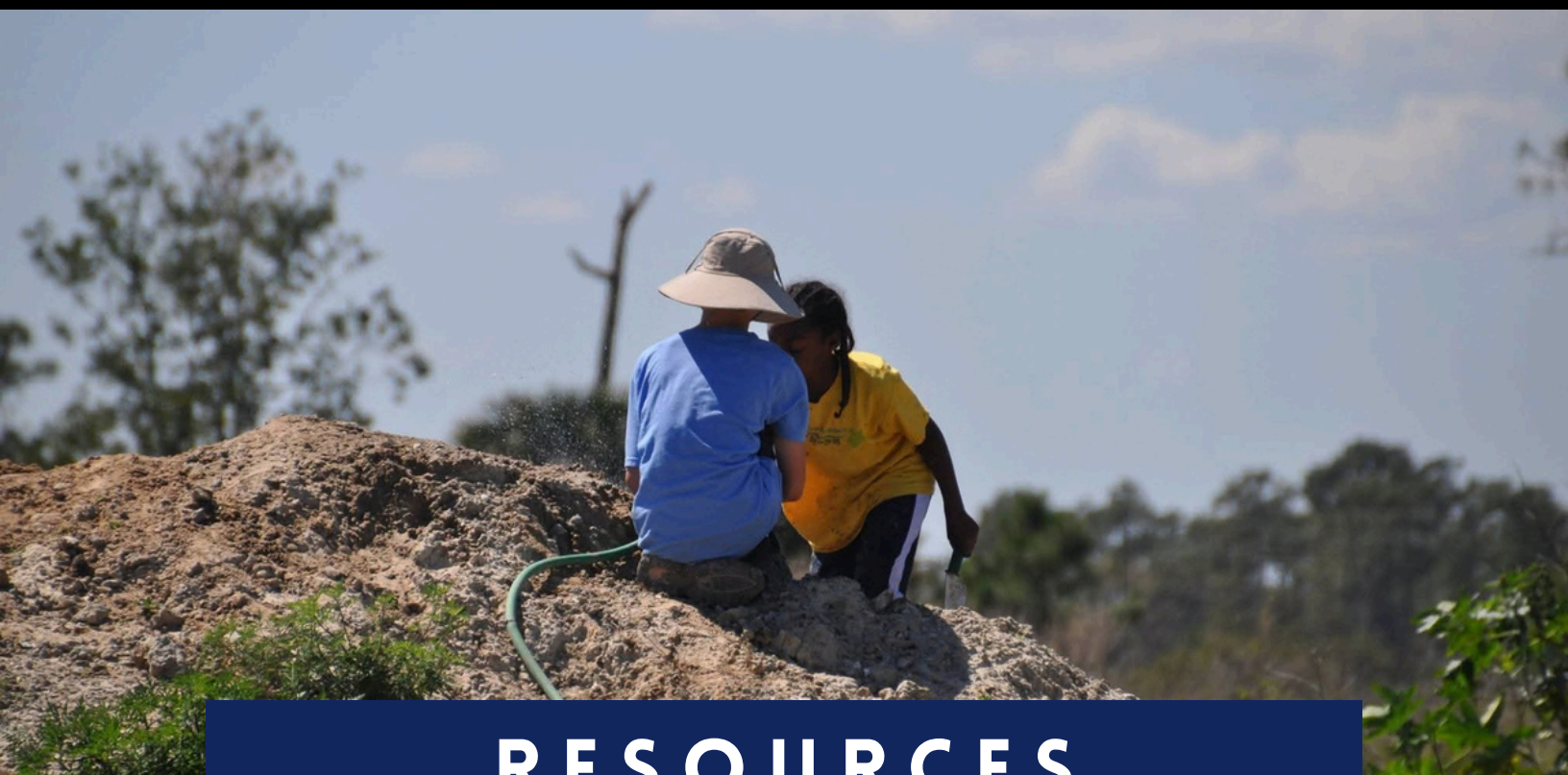
1) Club Members Who Volunteer for Club Activities (December award)

Winning member(s) receives up to \$650 to attend club-related class. Recipient must give a presentation at a general membership meeting recapping experience.

2) All Eligible Applicants (Awarded Throughout the Year)

Eligible* students registered in club-related course of study at college or university. Recipient must give a presentation at a general membership meeting describing course of study.

* Applicant does not need to be a club member.



RESOURCES

Ancient Crocodile	• This 210-million-year-old crocodile cousin was built for biting
Dr. Anton Oleinik's Work	• A seismically induced onshore surge deposit at the KPg boundary, North Dakota • 'Back to the Future' to Forecast the Fate of a Dead Florida Coral Reef • First record of non-indigenous Thrush Cowrie Naria turdus in South Florida • Modern coral range expansion off southeast Florida falls short of Late Holocene baseline • Sea Snail First Seen in the U.S. May Have Arrived as a 'Stowaway' (Naria turdus)
Giant Armadillo	• Fossil hunting in Florida lands BIG find and you can make a discovery, too!
Jinxiuite	• IMA Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) • Geologists confirm the existence of a mineral never before seen in one of the richest deposits on the planet
Membership Renewal	• Membership Dues Online
Opal	• Opal-Geoscience Australia • Opal- USGS • Birthstones for each month (Gia.edu)
Tourmaline	• State Mineral - Tourmaline (Maine.gov) • Tourmaline: a geological record keeper (CSIRO.au) • Tourmaline (LibreTexts) • Original birthstone list
USGS Coloring	• USGS MRP Color by Number: Graphite



a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

PO Box 18095 • W. Palm Beach, FL 33416-8095 • 561-585-2080 • gmspb.org/

Name 1 _____ Birthday month _____

Email 1 _____ Phone 1 _____

Name 2 _____ Birthday month _____

Email 2 _____ Phone 1 _____

If Family Membership, list children's names: _____

Address _____

City _____

Society-related Areas of Interest _____ State _____ Zip _____

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY To qualify for membership, you **MUST** be willing to participate and take an active part in Society activities: Attend monthly meetings, display, demonstrate or serve on various committees at the annual Show or other Society functions, and subscribe to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. **ANNUAL DUES ARE TO BE PAID EACH YEAR.**

On which committee(s) are you willing to work? If not sure what's involved, ask a Society officer.

REMEMBER: A MEMBER IS A VOLUNTEER

SOCIETY COMMITTEES

- ____ Welcoming Committee (greeter, info table, refreshments, auction table, etc at meetings)
- ____ Teaching Classes
- ____ Newsletter
- ____ Program Committee
- ____ Shop Maintenance
- ____ Social Events
- ____ Sunshine Committee
- ____ Nominating Committee
- ____ Outreach Committee (plan presentations, contact/liaison w/ schools, organizations, etc)

SHOW COMMITTEES

- ____ Show Chairman
- ____ Serve Lunch on Friday
- ____ Take Tickets at door
- ____ Setup/Breakdown (skirt tables, assemble exhibit cases, unload/load truck)
- ____ Demonstrations (faceting, cabbing, jewelry making, beading etc)
- ____ Work the Mine (cracking geodes, etc)
- ____ Scholarship Auction (outgoing personality a plus)
- ____ Information/Membership Table
- ____ Security (unarmed, observe and report only)
- ____ Exhibit your Work

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Check ONLY ONE ____ **New Membership** ____ **Renewal**

☐ **Junior (to age 18) \$10.00**
Child joining with parent/guardian's permission

☐ **Single \$30.00**
Single adult, 18 years or older

☐ **Family \$50.00**
All adults & children (under 18) in same household

Signature _____

_____ Date _____

Amount enclosed _____ Cash _____ Check _____

Check # _____ Date received _____

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

THURSDAY SET-UP CREW - NOVEMBER 19th

Approximately 10 people are needed on Thursday. We will be doing the Society's setup on Thursday. We have hired movers to do heavy lifting, but we still need members to assist in directing helpers on where unloaded materials go at the fairgrounds. Materials such as our display cases. Friday, the display cases need to be assembled, ready to be filled on Friday! We will also be setting up the flume and mine. **Contact Arlene Lazzaro 516-810-3495 (yes, it really is 516).**

FRIDAY SET/UP/SUNDAY TAKE DOWN - NOVEMBER 20 and 22

As many volunteers as we can get are needed to set up during the day on Friday and to take-down after the show from 5:00 PM on Sunday. The vendors will be coming in on Friday to set up, and help might be needed by them in unloading and finding their booth. The demonstration area needs to be finished as well as Mine! Exploration Station also! Tables need to be set up for silent auction and scholarship raffle! All must be ready for Saturday morning! On Sunday, after the show is over, everything must be packed up, loaded in the truck, and delivered back to the storage area. Again, we have hired movers to do the heavy lifting, but we still need members to assist in directing helpers on where materials go to be loaded into the truck. We also will need someone to go to the storage location to direct the hired help on where to put the unloaded materials. **Contact Arlene Lazzaro 516-810-3495.**

TICKET TAKERS, NOVEMBER 21 and 22

Two people are needed for each 2-hour time slot. Responsibilities include taking tickets at the entrance doors, tearing the ticket in half, depositing one half in the box, and giving the second half to the guest. Handing out programs. This position requires just sitting on a chair. Requirements include a pleasant, friendly, helpful, courteous, and kind personality. At times, ticket takers are very busy. This is a very important position because ticket takers are the "first impression" that people get of our society. **Contact Maura Lovett 561-818-3459.**

SILENT AUCTION, NOVEMBER 21 and 22

Need 16 volunteers, 4 different shifts, 4 people per shift. Saturday 9-1:00 and 1:00-6:00, Sunday, 10-1:00 and 1:00-4:30, including breakdown. Responsibilities will be to put up new auctions every hour on the half hour and collect money, and re-setup for next hour. We will have a bargain table also where sales are made. **Contact Arlene Lazzaro 516-810-3495.**

INFORMATION TABLE - NOVEMBER 21 and 22

Three people are necessary for each 2-hour time slot. Responsibilities include answering questions concerning the show, checking in volunteers and giving them their badges and providing information about our society's activities. Information attendants should be able to direct visitors and provide information about everything from who is in charge, to where a particular dealer is located. This position requires sitting at the information desk. The ability to be pleasant and helpful, without getting flustered, is important. **Contact Maura Lovett 561-818-3459.**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND PRIZE DRAWING - NOVEMBER 21 and 22

2 people per 2-hour time slot are needed. Responsibilities include encouraging people to purchase tickets for the prize drawing of the many items available. It is extremely important to be friendly, inviting, cheerful, and encouraging without being insistent. Position requires some standing. The main objective is to point out the items that may be won with only a \$1.00 ticket. You can't be a wallflower. **Contact Maura Lovett 561-818-3459.**

SHOW SECURITY - NOVEMBER 21 and 22

At least four people are needed for each 2-hour time slot. Responsibilities are to observe people, watch for those acting in a disorderly manner (for example, drunk, smoking, or shoplifting), and report it to Show Chairman, Committee Chairperson, Fairgrounds Security, or Armed Security. Show Security guards should NEVER confront or accuse anyone. They ONLY report the incident. Greeting the public in a friendly manner is also important. This position requires walking around or standing. **PLEASE DO NOT SHOP OR SIT DOWN AND EAT DURING YOUR SHIFT.**

DEMONSTRATIONS- NOVEMBER 21 and 22

People are needed to demonstrate their skills during each 2-hour time slot. The area is large enough for several demonstrators to present simultaneously. This is the opportunity to greet the public and show off by participating in beading, wire wrapping, chain making, or any other lapidary skills. **Contact Kelly Azor-Anderson 561-635-7619.**

LUNCH ON SET-UP DAY - Friday NOVEMBER 20

Lunch will be served to the dealers, society members, and fairgrounds workers on Friday, set-up day. We will be serving sandwiches, salads, drinks and chips for lunch. Most are ordered, but some salads would be asked to be prepared by members and reimbursed for cost. About 5 people are needed between 11am and 4pm – can do 2-hour shifts. **Contact Arlene Lazzaro 516-810-3495.**

MINING / GEODE CRACKING/SPINNING WHEEL GAME - NOVEMBER 21 and 22

Middle school and high school students are encouraged to volunteer

We need the following people *for each 2-hour time slot* to run the mining area effectively. *This is a very active area and these volunteer positions, with few exceptions, are not sedentary positions.* Duties include:

- 1) 2 people working together to collect money (Adults) and use an iPad for credit card payments, enter inventory on an iPad and give out tickets
- 2) 1 person to crack geodes
- 3) 1 person for working the Spin-the-Wheel game and for keeping the table stocked with prizes. The player wins the prize in the area matching the number on the wheel.
- 4) 2 people to identify gemstones at the flume area. Volunteers will be briefed on what gemstones are available in the mine. There will be cards available with gemstone samples to aid in identification if participants request the information.
- 5) 1 person to help visitors select geodes.
- 6) 1 person to fill bucket bags and fill buckets as needed.
- 7) 1 person to keep the flume running smoothly, moving used gravel, handing out screens, etc.

Contact April Leong April@pbna.net 561-252-1354.

KIDS' EXPLORATION STATION - NOVEMBER 21 and 22 with set up on the 19th & 20th

This area is all about kids. Everything is free and fun. We are there to promote the child's interest in rocks, gems and minerals. If you like working with children, don't miss out on the fun of helping out in the Kids' Exploration Station. Volunteers will help the children make bracelets and necklaces, paint rocks, and color drawings. We'll be giving out shells and mineral specimens. For each 2-hour shift we need a couple of people.

Contact Monique Scholine 561-301-9541.

EXHIBITS

Share your passion, your projects, and your collection(s)! Whether you've taken a trip and collected pretty rocks from a roadcut or taken a class and learned a new technique or two, show off your accomplishments. Any club-related display will be welcomed. Your exhibit must fit into a 47 in. (wide) x 22 5/8 in. (depth) x 23 1/2 inches (high) display case. Locks will be provided. Prizes will be awarded – one for peoples' choice best exhibit and one for the judge's choice best exhibit. Contact Maura Lovett 561-818-3459.

Name: _____

Phone (indicate best time to call): _____

Email: _____

Positions interested in (circle shift): _____

Thursday, Nov. 19 (set-up)

- 9am-Noon
- 12pm-3pm

Friday, Nov. 20 (set-up, lunch)

- 11am -4pm

Saturday, Nov. 21

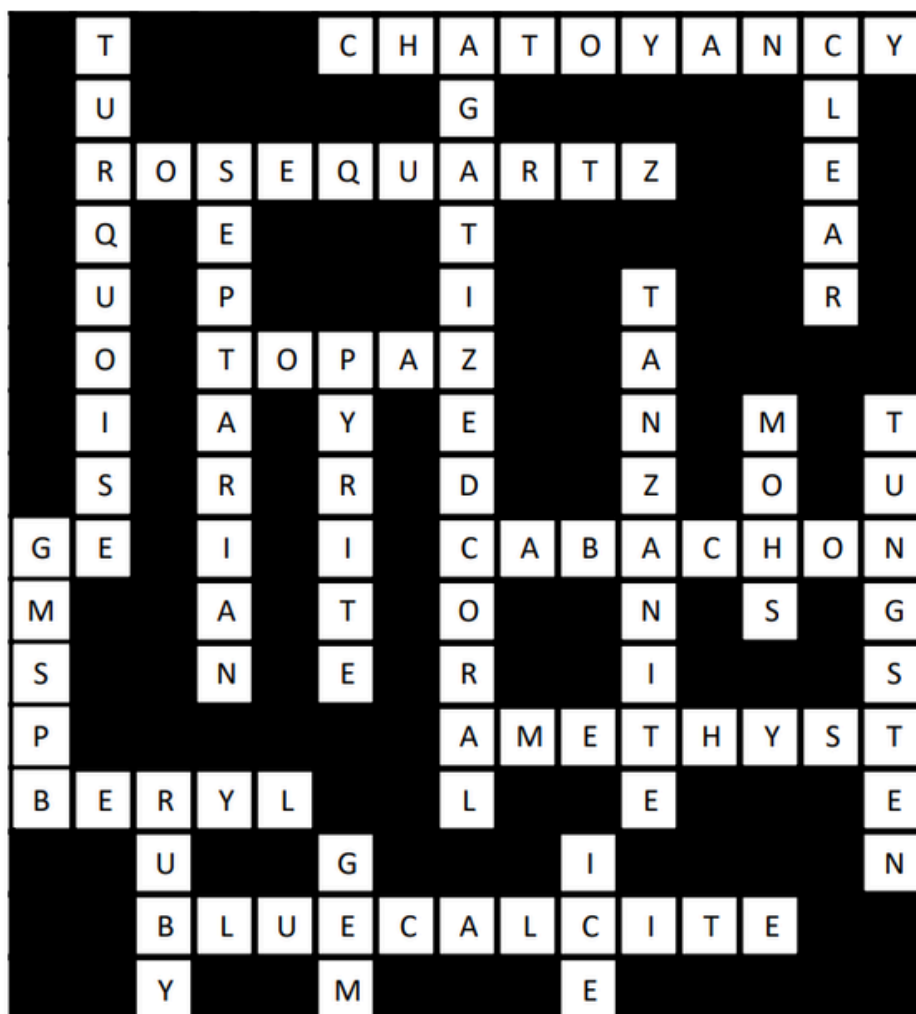
- 9am-11am
- 11am-1pm
- 1pm-3pm
- 3pm-6pm (3 hours)

Sunday, Nov. 22

- 10am- Noon
- Noon - 2pm
- 2pm - 5pm (3 hours)
- 5pm - 7pm (take down)

Email to show@gmspb.org

OCTOBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Follow Our Instagram ♥



@GEMANDMINERALS

Follow Our FACEBOOK Page:



CLUB OFFICERS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Title	Name	Phone	Email
President	Arlene Lazzaro	(516) 810-3495	president@gmspb.org
1st Vice President	Anthony Leong	(561) 252-1329	firstvice@gmspb.org
2nd Vice President	Gale Langford	(561) 386-3332	secondvice@gmspb.org
Secretary	Monique Scholine	(561) 301-8664	secretary@gmspb.org
Treasurer	Monique Scholine	(561) 301-8664	treasurer@gmspb.org

OTHER CONTACTS

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show@gmspb.org

Show Dealer Relations
vendorinfo@gmspb.org

Newsletter editor
newsletter@gmspb.org

Webmaster
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