



The next General Membership Meeting will be held on

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006

**7:30 PM at the West Palm Beach Garden Club
(Dreher Park, across from the Science Museum)**

Program following the General Meeting

Mr. Joe Tenhagen

Dubai Trip to Evaluate Diamonds & Rubies

Joe was a geology and chemistry major and became a gemologist. He is a Graduate Gemologist (GIA) and an FGA (Fellow of the Gemological Association of Great Britain) since 1969. He is also a certified gemologist and Senior Member of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers.

Joe comes to us to discuss his recent trip to Dubai where he had a chance to view and evaluate a king's ransom in diamonds and rubies.

The Rockhound
Volume 40, Issue 9
May 2006

Upcoming Programs

Those society members present at our April meeting were treated to an enlightening and interesting program on fossils presented by our society president, Chris Koch. We have another treat in store for us this month when Mr. Joseph Tenhagen once again visits us to discuss his recent trip to Dubai where he had a chance to view and evaluate a king's ransom in diamonds and rubies. In a more "hands on" vein, Lisa Kuntzman, a society member whom many of you know, will present our June program on various types of jewelry making. This program hopefully could lead to a greater participation by our society members in the use of our shop, especially by enrolling in the classes which are being offered. We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you on May 18 and subsequent meetings to follow.

Lee Krenz

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Sunday July 2nd
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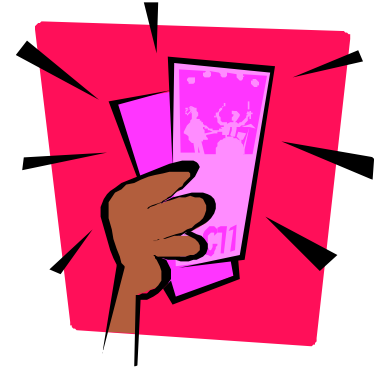
By Lee Krenz
See Page 6 for more details.

**CLASSES ARE
FINALLY HERE**
See Page 7 for more details.

Door Prizes and Raffle Items

Please remember, every person that arrives by 7:30 will receive a FREE door prize ticket. Last Month the auction items brought in \$42! If anyone has any items they would like to donate for door prizes or auction items please give them to Barbara.

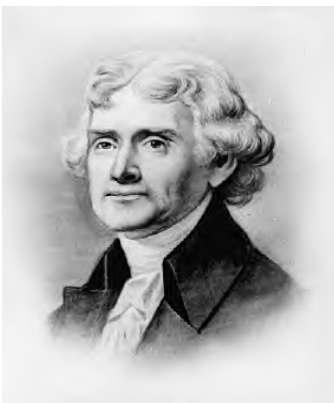
This month the door prizes will be: a bracelet made of woven beads and a rose petal pendant that has been dipped in resin. The raffle prizes will be: a sterling bracelet with rainbow moonstone cabs, a carved object made from jade and an adamite mineral specimen. Don't miss out on these items as once they all will go by the end of the night!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today."

~ Thomas Jefferson



You can tell that summer has arrived with the temperatures rising and the rains have already started. Peace river still remains the lowest it has been in over two years! You definitely want to make the trip before it is too high for wading and sifting for fossils. I definitely want to make it there before the month is out, but much depends on time.

Much of my free time has been organizing some of my items to get ready for future shows. I now have hundreds of pieces of agatized coral and I'm working on getting more. I have also begun to replenish my supplies of shark teeth. In order to store all of these goodies, I have had to increase the size of my storage unit.

This has also given Cameron a little more play space. He is very careful around daddy's collections with the exception of when he decides to throw his nerf balls. It will soon be time to have a no balls in the house policy as he already has a strong arm.

This summer I'm hoping to take him on his first hunt for shark teeth on Venice Beach. I think he will be a good hunter as he is always picking up his toys and bringing them to me. Let's hope he will have a good eye for shark teeth and bring them to daddy as well.

I hope everyone has a great summer with lots of collecting trips.

Best Regards, Chris Koch

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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Newsletter
Editor

Chris Koch

General Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 5 guests present.

Treasurers Report - read and motion made and passed.

Minutes – motion made to accept as printed in the newsletter and passed.

Membership – Ingrid not present but Michelle accepted new membership applications and dues. Anyone who has not paid by tonight will NOT be in the roster.

Field trips – 2 day dig at Rucks Pit March 10 & 11. Three other clubs joining us. \$20 a person.

Shop- KC Foster, Frank Hecker and John Holmstrom have been working diligently on finalizing the “little” things that make a difference! We will have a GRAND OPENING in March !

Classes – Michelle has taken over for Suzie. She had sign up sheets out and a list of upcoming classes. Anyone interested in learning or teaching please contact Michelle

Show – Carl is working on EVERYTHING ! The committees are starting to fill up. Still need a couple of Chairman. A meeting is held the Tuesday after the general meeting at Don Ramon’s in Lake Worth. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Ist Vice President - we still need someone to fill this position. Anyone interested please write a brief note stating your history with the club and qualifications (?). See any Board

member for more info (it’s an easy job!)

Raffle – the raffle was started tonight. A special “early bird ticket” was given to any member who arrived before 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$1 each or 6/\$5. The items available will be published in the newsletter the month before so you’ll know what to expect! Donations and/or donated items are appreciated.

Program – tonight’s will be on exhibits and and to display for judging presented by members Bill and Joanne Grimes.

Meeting adjourned at 8 :41 for refreshments.



General Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2006

Meeting called to order at 7:33. Pledge of Allegiance. We had 1 guest.

Treasure's report was read and approved. Minutes of the February meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Newsletter – still need an editor.

Membership - Ingrid not present. Michelle had applications for new and renewals.

Classes - class list and sign up sheets were laid out during the break.

Shop – ready ! Waiting for classes / open workshop schedules. Frank Hecker will have the shop open Tuesdays from 9-12 am. KC Foster will be there another week day. Michelle will start 2 Monday nights a month for specific shop time (Fusing, Art Clay Silver, Metalsmithing, etc.) for kiln or torch work. Check the upcoming calendar.

Sunshine committee – good news ! No cards sent out ! If anyone knows of a member who is injured, sick, surgery, family loss, please contact Terry Koplin.

Website – Terry is constantly updating / improving. CHECK IT OUT ! www.gemandmineral.cc (NOT “.com”)

Show – We will have a booth at Frank Cox show and need volunteers to sit at our table to give out club and show info. See Carl or Debbie Bengtson. We are going to advertise more heavily at shows and in the papers this year. Barbara Ringhiser has been busy coordinating things with the Eastern Federation for our BIG show in November we're sponsoring it this year! There will be extra work involved so we need EXTRA volunteers before and during the show. The next Show Committee meeting will be May 22 at 7 pm at Scooters Restaurant on Congress south of Forest Hill in the Greenwood Shopping Center. We are going to repair/replace the exhibits this summer. We will NOT be having classes at the show this year but will have a LOT of demonstrating. There will be volunteer sign up sheets at the September meeting.

Ist Vice President – Bob Durney, active member for over 4 years, was nominated, voted in and accepted the position. His concern for the wellbeing of the club and it's members will be invaluable. We welcome his ideas and input.

Programs – tonight will be about meteorites, tektites and moldavite by Chris Koch. May will be by Joe Tenhagen about the 2006 Tucson show.

Social – annual steak dinner will be on Sunday, May 7 at 12. Bring the usual side dish, plates, utensils, drinks. An auction will follow by our GREAT bar-b-q'er Jack Stamper. Guest fee will be \$10.

William Holland / Wild Acres – still taking applications from candidates. Do you qualify? If you have any questions, contact Michelle.

Library – still need a librarian ! The books are kept at the Garden Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 followed by refreshments

The club will be purchasing a projector, speakers and VHS/DVD player for great future programs! The total cost will be about \$1,500. This has been talked about for a couple of years. FINALLY going to do it !

It has been brought to our attention that some members continue to talk during the meeting and programs. Please keep this to a minimum out of consideration to the speakers or go outside to talk. If necessary, you will be “escorted” out.



Show Workday, Sunday, July 2nd

SHOW NEWS



The show committee has planned a working social for Sunday, July 2. We will meet at the Garden Club at 11am to see what condition our show display cases are in. We know that many of them are in need of work! We will be assessing and repairing what we can, scrapping what we can't. That was the work part. Now for the social part, we will be providing chicken and would like you to provide the pot luck. We are asking everyone that is coming to bring a covered

dish and their own eating utensils and drinks (we'll make a pot of coffee to go with dinner and desert). We will work a little, eat a little, work a little, and eat a little. The idea here is to have some fun while we refurbish the display cases. And if you are inclined to put up a display at the show, be it competitive or just informational and you want to select your case right then, you can! We encourage you to pick a case, take it home and spend some time working out your display. If you want we can put your name on a case and reserve it in storage for you as well.

We need a rough count so we have enough chicken, so sign up to bring a dish at the May or June meeting or if you are busy call Deb Bengtson 641-4493 by Friday June 30 and let her know that you are coming. Can't make it for lunch; come by for desert we will be there from 11 am to 4 pm. Everyone is welcome and everyone will be helpful with the cases even if you think you don't know what to do. We'll learn together and have some good food and fun while we do!

UPCOMING SHOWS

MAY	JUNE	JUNE
May 19th - 21st Sarasota, Florida Frank Cox Productions 164th Gem, Jewelry and Bead Show Municipal Auditorium 801 N. Tamiami Trail 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Daily Frank Cox, 941-954-0202 www.frankcoxproductions.com	June 2nd - 4th Pensacola, Florida Pensacola Jewelry, Bead and Mineral Show Pensacola Fairgrounds, Expo Hal #1 6655 Mobile Highway 2nd & 3rd, 10-6; 4th, 10-5 Hal Parsons, 813-745-0858 jewelryelmar@aol.com	June 23rd - 25th Jacksonville, Florida Jacksonville Jewelry, Bead and Mineral Show Jacksonville Agricultural Fairgrounds 510 Fairgrounds Place 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Daily Hal Parsons, 813-745-0858 jewelryelmar@aol.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Starting this month we will have a CLASSIFIED section in the newsletter. This service is FREE to members, but I prefer receiving the ads via email if at all possible. The deadline for the next month will be the first day of each month. I would ask that you limit the ads to 35 words.

WANTED - someone to flat lap polish several pieces of geodes and slabs of petrified wood. Please call Alan Meltzer at 561/471-3491.

WANTED - used vibrating flat laps and pans to use to polish agatized coral and geodes. Please call Chris Koch at 561-714-6222 if you have a working flat lap you want to get rid of.

Gemstone Notes

rubies

By Lee Krenz



Rubies, along with sapphires, make up the corundum family of gemstones. Stones in this grouping register 9 on the Mohs scale, second in hardness only to diamonds. As rubies are a growth inhibited gem, it is rare to find high quality stones in excess of five carats; and when such stones are found, they could be valued for as much as \$30,000 per carat. Thusly, it is not hard to understand why the ruby has been referred to as the "King of Gems." The most highly sought after rubies generally come from the Mogok region of Burma. They are usually found in igneous and metamorphic rocks or as waterworn pebbles in alluvial deposits. Other than Burma (Myanmar today), rubies are also found in Thailand, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Viet Nam, as well as a few other locales including North Carolina. This member of the corundum family, which is the essence of red, is and has been acknowledged by many throughout the centuries as having "first place in color, beauty and rank among all gems."

Magazine Subscriptions

Anyone interested in renewing or want a new subscription at the club discount rate, please contact Michelle. "Rock and Gem" is 50% off at

\$12/year and "Lapidary Journal" is 25% off at \$25.00. Checks are to be made out to GMSPB (our club).



CALENDAR

I am starting the calendar again to let members know what classes and open workshop dates are scheduled and available. Other club functions, meetings, shows or any lapidary-related activities throughout the state will be listed. If you know of anything upcoming, please contact Michelle so it will in the next month.

SHOP NEWS

The shop is up and waiting for use !!! See class list and calendar for times and days. There is a \$5 shop fee except for classes. Remember to sign a new release form ! See ya there!!!!

CLASSES ARE FINALLY HERE

CLASSES AVAILABLE

(50% of the class cost goes to the club)

CLASS	TEACHER	PHONE #
Beaded Cabochon	Inez Ancell	561/641-9994
Bead Embellished Bracelet	Inez Ancell	561/641-9994
Cabochon Making	Harold Shonkwiler	561/586-2026
Chain Making	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153
Chain Making - advanced	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153
Beaded Chain Link	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153
Jump Ringer "Certification"	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153
Wirework	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153
Viking Knit	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153
No-Torch Silver Forging	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153
Fused Glass - beginner	Frank Hecker	561/742-4337
Torched Glass Beads	Jack Stamper	561/964-4710
Art Clay Silver	Michelle Renne'	561/969-3291
Enameling on Copper	Michelle Renne'	561/969-3291
Silversmithing	?	
Stained Glass - beginner	?	
Faceting	KC Foster	561/968-5287

*Materials supply list available before the class starts (if applicable)

*Michelle can e-mail or fax the class or supply list if requested. NO PROBLEM !

*Please contact Michelle if there is a class you would like to take or can

teach at 561/969-3291 or FGMR4@aol.com

Dates, Times and Costs will be disclosed soon.

CALL THE TEACHER OR MICHELLE IF YOU WANT TO SIGN UP !

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Junior Membership - \$10.00
(Under Age 18)
- Single Membership - \$15.00
(Over Age 18)
- Family Membership - \$25.00
(Includes Children Under Age 18)

Membership expires on December 31st each year. To renew your membership, make your check or money order out to:

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

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

NAME TAGS

Name tags are available from the Membership Secretary. The cost per name tag is \$6.00.

IF YOU HAVE A NAME TAG, PLEASE WEAR IT. IF NOT, PLEASE ORDER YOURS TODAY!

CLUB VESTS

Club vests can be ordered from Wearguard at 1-800-388-3300.

Order the following:

Color: BL Blue
Unisex sizes: XS,S,M,L,XL,XXL
Style: 348
Price: \$19.99 (plus \$6.50 S&H)

These vests are plain blue vests.

You will need to purchase a Society patch at a General Membership Meeting

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2006

OFFICERS

President*	Chris Koch	642-0809
1st Vice President*	Bob Durney	
2nd Vice President*	Lee Krenz	744-5196
Secretary*	Michelle Renee`	969-3291
Treasurer*	Barbara Ringhiser	588-5458

DIRECTORS

Past President*	Jack Stamper	964-4710
Past President*	Harold Shonkwiler	586-2026
Show Chairman*	Carl Bengtson	641-4493

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

Class Coordinator	Susie Monada	487-8296
Club Patches & Pins	Lucette Chicoine	967-9938
Field Trips	Michelle Renee`	969-3291
Historians	Bill & Florallee Stein	684-0950
Hostess	Coralie Norvell	965-4748
Junior Program	OPEN	
Librarian	OPEN	
Media (video & photos)	Harold Shonkwiler	586-2026
Membership*	Ingrid Webster	793-8646
Newsletter Editor*	Chris Koch	714-6222
Programs	Lee Krenz	744-5196
Refreshments	Debbie Anderson	965-9279
Special Projects Raffle	Junior Members	
Sunshine Committee	Terry Koplin	848-5885
Social Events	OPEN	
Shop Stewards	OPEN	
Website Manager	Terry Koplin	848-5885

* Denotes a Voting Board Member

The Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. is a member of the Eastern and Southern Federations of Mineral and Lapidary Societies, and is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies. Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month excepting December which is held on the second Thursday. Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the West Palm Beach Garden Club across from the South Florida Science Museum in Dreher Park, West Palm Beach.