



The next general membership meeting will be held

**Thursday July 19, 2007**

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

## **ARCHAEOLOGY AND INTARSIA**

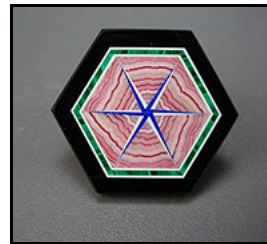
At the July meeting we will be touching upon two different and interesting topics. **Chris Davenport**, the Palm Beach County Archaeologist will speak on local geology and archaeology for 10-15 minutes. After a brief Q&A we will be showing a 20 minute show on Intarsia, if time allows.

Intarsia, for those unfamiliar with it, is an advanced lapidary technique in which many types and colors of stone are cut and assembled with precision to form geometric designs or pictures. It is also known as "pietre dure" or hardstone marquetry and was invented in Florence, Italy in the late 16th century as a natural outgrowth of an ancient tradition of stone and tile mosaics.

*(from www.multicolor.com)*

In both intarsia and mosaic work, small bits of different colored stones are fit together and the top cut and polished to present a picture or other interesting pattern. Strictly speaking, a mosaic is constructed on top of a flat base of another material (usually stone), while an intarsia (also known as Florentine mosaic) is set flush into the surface of the base material. The finest intarsia and mosaics were traditionally of Italian origin, but intarsia has enjoyed something of a renaissance in recent years.

*(From www.tradeshop.com)*



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**JULY 2007**

**Volume 41 Issue 11**

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

August 11—Summer Picnic. See Page 4 for details....

August 16—Membership meeting—Program, presented by Sandy Mielke, will be about those amazing flashes of color.....Opals!!!

September 20—Membership meeting—TBD

October 18—Membership meeting—Alan Meltzer will be bringing in some of his amazing and colorful collection, and will be sure to peek our interest in another fascinating subject!!



### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I hope everyone is having a good summer so far, and that you enjoyed last month's program on the Petrified Forest and the Painted Desert.

Please give some thought to the open positions we have in the Society's staff. Check out the last page of the Rockhound and look for the OPEN positions. The positions we have open are fun and there is a lot of help to get you started. I would appreciate any help in those areas especially. Just a word about the Librarian position. The Society's Library, which has a great collection of books as well as videos, cannot be accessed until we have a librarian. The Society Librarian would have to attend the monthly meetings, open the Library, and help members check out books and videos.

Check page 4 for details on these upcoming events.

August 11—Summer Picnic/Show & Sell

October 6th - field trip to the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

October 14th—Rock Swap with the Miami and Gold Coast clubs.

See you at the meeting.

**Barbara**

### **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

Please have items for the August ROCKHOUND to the editor by August 5th. Submissions can be emailed to [BNMJJEFF@AOL.COM](mailto:BNMJJEFF@AOL.COM) or you can call Jeff Ursillo 561-706-9549

The Rockhound  
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Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

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Articles not bylined are by the Editor.

### **DOOR PRIZE AND RAFFLE ITEMS**



Please remember, every person arriving by 7:30 will receive a FREE door prize ticket. Come early this month so you can get a ticket for a beautiful hematite bracelet!

This month, the raffle prizes will be: A fresh water pearl on a silver chain, a silver necklace, and an agatized coral specimen. *Don't miss out on these items!*

Last month's raffle produced \$13 for the club. *We need your donations!!* If anyone has *collected too much*, any donations would be appreciated for our monthly raffles.

**Harriet Flashenburg**, Raffle Coordinator

### **PERUVIAN BLUE OPAL**

The "Peruvian blue opal" is a real variety of opal that has been colored blue, presumably by a copper mineral, probably chrysacolla. Like all opal, you have to cut and polish it carefully keeping it as cool as possible so as to prevent cracking. This material comes from southern Peru and has been available in Lima almost continuously for the last twenty years. The best of it is an electric blue that looks like the best gem chrysacolla.

This is very rare but other than these very rare pieces, good pieces are from an inch to three inches thick, a good translucent aquamarine blue color and they frequently have black dendrites included. About five years ago someone got the idea that this stone could be promoted as a new gem stone, and now the better material is being sold as Andean Opal with good examples of it offered at dollars per carat. The good material formerly went at about \$40 per kg. It comes in flat vein sections like tiger eye or malachite and the color can range from an almost white, pale blue color to a beautiful translucent aquamarine color. This same area still produces a lot of "chrysacolla" the best of which is quite attractive and has a real tendency to chip and crack when worked. A lot of it was formerly sold to Israel as a replacement for their local Eliat stone which had a lot of brown to black jasper and malachite/ brochantite mixed together in it with the chrysacolla. *from Rock Currier via Rockhound email list*

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING JUNE 21, 2007**

Presiding, **Barbara Ringhiser**, President.

**MEETING** – The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM at the Garden Club.

**PROGRAM** – This month the program was provided by Joe Tenhagen. Joe presented a beautiful picture presentation about the Painted Desert and the Petrified Forest in Arizona. Barbara has invited a County Archeologist to speak in July. He may stop in for a brief presentation and hopefully return for a more in-depth discussion in September, August program will be about Opals with Sandy Mielke. Alan Meltzer will be talking about Banded Agates in October. Barbara is going to ask Eddie Rucks to speak in November. No program in December.

**MINUTES** – The meeting minutes for May were motioned to be accepted and approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – **Marv Berkowitz** was absent and the Treasurer's report for May was read (for information) by **Barbara Ringhiser**.

**SUNSHINE** – **Karie Kiser** was absent and **Terry Koplun** reported that there were no cards sent out this month.

**NEWSLETTER** – **Deb Slutzky** reported that she is stepping down as Editor and **Jeff Ursillo**, a previous editor of the newsletter, is taking over the position.

**WEB SITE** – Work is ongoing to add information to our Web site. **Terry** got new software to use and high-speed Internet is on order to upload information faster.

**FIELD TRIPS** – For the trip to The Florida Museum of Natural History, the date is Saturday 10/6. We are expecting a bus for 57 people to cost approximately \$40 (including admission). We'll leave from the Garden Club at 7:00AM, break at Ft. Drum on the Turnpike, lunch in Gainesville before the museum, eat dinner after the museum. Should be back around 10PM. The trip will take about 5 hours each way and we'll spend about 3 hours at the museum. You can sign up now by contacting **Barbara** by phone or email and information will be on the Web site.

**SHOP** – Work and organization on the shop is ongoing, and the condition of the shop has been vastly improved in the past six months. **John Holmstrom** is focusing on safety issues that could be improved upon, such as getting new fire extinguishers, fixing and clearing the garage door to use as a second exit if necessary, installing new hardy board in the hot area. A list of shop rules has been handed out at the last board meeting and will be reviewed

for accuracy and completeness. When complete, they will be posted at the shop, on the Web site, and maybe in the newsletter. We are starting equipment rentals for some equipment such as tumblers and flat lap.

**CLASSES** – **Michelle Renee**' reported that **Jack Stamper** is promising to hold his classes next month. There is now a hot spot in the shop, so classes using heat can now be held. **Frank Hecker** has had some surgery and will be unable to hold his classes. **John** and **Phyllis Holmstrom** will try to take over some of **Frank's** classes when they have the time.

**CALENDAR** – Check the monthly calendar for the meetings, socials, workshops, and class schedules.

**MEMBERSHIP** – **Ingrid** was absent. This year's rosters are available, contact **Ingrid** if you need one.

**SHOW** – Still receiving deposits. This year, we will have two-day passes that will be \$10 or \$8 with the coupon. Coupons can be printed from our Web site. **Mary** will be making banners and asked for color input; purple and yellow was suggested. Show meetings are postponed until September.

**BOARD MEETING** – No meeting in July due to the holiday. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 1st, at Olive Garden, corner of Lake Worth Rd and 57th St. in Green Acres. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM. Join us for dinner and an informative meeting. Everyone is welcome.

**SOCIAL EVENTS** – **A social events coordinator is needed.** If anyone can serve the club in this capacity, contact **Barbara Ringhiser**.

There will be another rock swap at TY Park on Sunday 10/14. There will be a raffle and bingo. Items can only be sold to other club members. Admission to the park is \$1. The clubs participating will be Gold Coast, Miami, and Palm Beach.

**RAFFLE** – This month's raffle proceeds will be donated to **Bob Durney**, former 1st Vice President of the club. The raffle brought in \$82.

**JUNIORS PROGRAM** – Nothing new to report.

**MISC.** – **Harold Shonkwiler**, Shop Steward, is in the VA Hospital on Blue Heron Blvd, Room 725. He is being treated for an infection, but can be contacted on his cell phone. The Sunshine Committee should sent out a card. Four guests (including two previous members) attended the meeting. EFMLS raffle tickets are on sale. Contact **Barbara** if you are interested.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**AUGUST 11  
SUMMER PICNIC/SHOW AND SELL**

The Garden club will be the site for the 2007 Summer Picnic. We'll serve hamburgers and hotdogs and provide ketchup, mustard, relish, onions, buns, plates, cups, ice, utensils, coffee. Members are asked to bring side dishes and desserts to share as well as their own drinks.

Picnic starts at 12 noon.

Following the picnic we will have a Show & Sell. Tables are available for \$10. Call Barbara Ringhiser 561-588-5458 or email me at bar5678@aol.com to reserve a table.

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I think that I have never found,  
A man as looney as a rockhound.

A nut whose body is often pressed,  
Against a quarry's muddy breast.

An addict who breaks hard rocks all day,  
And lifts his sweaty arms to "play".

A fool that may in summer wear,  
A nest of black flies in his hair.

A man who must have lost his brain,  
To go out smashing rocks in rain.

A medical fool who stops when this harm,  
Creates shooting pains to run up his arm.

An obsessive chap who risks divorce,  
When his "addiction" runs it's course.

Minerals are made by Nature under-  
ground,  
But God really goofed when he made a  
rockhound.

*LARRYRUSH@WORLDNET.ATT.NET*

**OCTOBER 6TH  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
GAINSEVILLE**

Florida State Museum of Natural History in Gainesville  
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>

This is a joint trip with the Miami and Gold Coast clubs-

\* We'll leave at 7am on Saturday Oct. 6th from the West Palm Beach Garden Club. (across from the So. Fla. Science Museum). Directions available on request.

\* The Bus company is Midnight Sun Tours, Lake Worth

\* Travel time is approximately 5 hours.

\* Break at the Ft. Drum service plaza.

\* Arrive in Gainesville and have lunch before going to the museum.

\* Spend about 3 hours at the museum

\* Have dinner in Gainesville.

\* Return to the garden club about 10pm.

\* The trip is open to 57 people.

\* Cost is \$46 per person - this includes bus fare, driver gratuity, admission to the museum and admission to the Butterfly Rainforest.

\* Because we'll be there on the weekend, there are no guided tours.

\* There is a garden behind the museum and also an art museum that we can visit next to the natural history museum

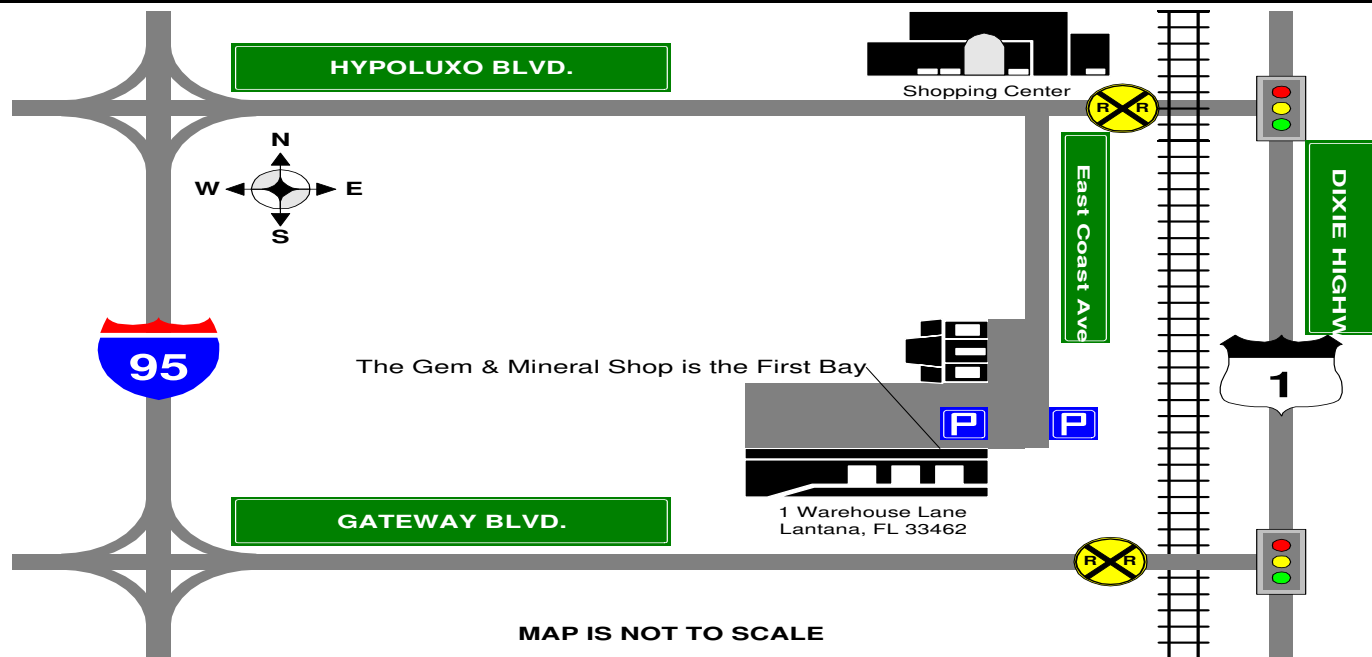
\* To sign up, contact Barbara Ringhiser, Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches by email - bar5678@aol.com or call her at 561-588-5458

\* **Deadline for sign-up and payment is September 7th.**

\* Make checks payable to Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. and mail to P. O. Box 18095, West Palm Beach FL 33416 or pay at the July or August meetings.

**OCTOBER 14TH  
ROCK SWAP AT TY PARK**

This swap is in conjunction with the Miami and Gold Coast clubs. There will be a raffle and bingo games. As before, items may only be sold to other club members. The park admission is \$1. More details to follow in the Rockhound.



### SHOP SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Open Shop 7-9PM	3	4 No Board Meeting	5	6 Open Shop 6-9PM	7
8	9 Fused Glass Shop 7-9PM	10	11 Open Shop* 7-9PM	12	13 Open Shop 6-9PM	14
15	16 Glass Shop 7-9PM	17	18 Open Shop* 7-9PM	19 General Meeting 7:30PM	20 Open Shop 6-9PM	21
22	23 Torch/metal Shop 7-9PM	24	25 Open Shop* 7-9PM	26	27 Open Shop 6-9PM	28
29	30 Open Shop 7-9PM	31	*Wednesday evening Open Shop is on an on-call basis only. Contact Jeff Ursillo. 561-706-9549			

Shop schedule is TENTATIVE, call the shop steward listed below before you go!

Shop fee is \$5 per visit, payable to the Shop Steward.

**SHOP STEWARDS:**

**Head Steward**, John Holmstrom 561/585-7094 **Monday PM** – Michelle Renné 561/969-3291

**Wednesday PM** (On call only)– Jeff Ursillo 561/706-9549

**Friday PM** – Jeff Ursillo 561/706-9549 On call – KC Foster 561/968-5287

**SHOP PHONE** 561/585-2080

## **UPCOMING CLASSES**

We have some new and exciting classes coming up! See below for a complete list of available classes.

If there is a skill or technique you'd like to learn or teach,  
 please contact Michelle Renné at 561/969-3291 or FGMR4@aol.com.

CLASS	TEACHER	PHONE	COST	DATE	TIME
Art Clay Silver	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	\$50+ \$85 materials	TBD	
Beginner Beading	Ingrid Webster	561-793-8646	TBD	TBD	
Cabochon	TBD				
Chain Making Basic & Advanced	Teacher needed				
Enameling on Copper	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	\$30 + \$20 materials		
Faceting	KC Foster	561-968-5287	\$80 + \$20 materials		
Glass Bead-advanced	Jan Comos	561-969-9564	TBD	July	
No-solder Wire Work	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	\$30 + \$20 materials		
Pearl Knotting	Ingrid Webster	561-793-8646	\$25	TBD	
Pottery Jewelry	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	\$40 + \$20 materials	July	
Silversmithing	Jack Stamper	561-964-4710	\$60 + \$30 materials	July	
Stained Glass	Anna Medley	561-313-1594	TBD	July	
Torched Glass Beads	Jack Stamper	561-964-4710	\$50 + materials	July	
Viking Knit (wire)	Marv Berkowitz	561-364-9696	TBD	TBD	

Classes will be scheduled when teachers have enough students signed up.

Class fee is pre-paid and non-refundable unless the class is canceled.

The Club receives 50% of the class fee only, not materials fee.

\$5 shop use fee is NOT charged when attending a class.

Whether attending a class or using the shop, you must sign a Liability Waiver (New waiver must be signed after the first of every year) and sign the Shop's Log book on each visit.

**Important  
Please Read!**



### **CLASSIFIED SECTION**

CLASSIFIEDS are FREE to members. Please limit ads to 35 words. Deadline for submission is the first day of each month. If possible, forward your ads via email to Jeff Ursillo at [BNMJJEFF@AOL.COM](mailto:BNMJJEFF@AOL.COM)

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

**FOR SALE** - Lampwork Beads in all shapes and sizes including flowers and leaves. Special orders upon request. Handmade by Melodie Janis of Magnolia Street Glassworks. Please call 561/832-1275 or email at [melodie-beads@aol.com](mailto:melodie-beads@aol.com). Visit my store at eBay.com - Magnolia Street Shops.

### **BOB DURNEY CANCER FUND**

Bob Durney and his son, Donovan, have been members of the club for several years. Bob was 1st Vice President last year. He has been active in the club, helping with the Junior Rockhounds, the picnics, and especially the annual Club Show, taking time off from work to load and unload, set up, tear down and assist where needed, especially in the mining flume area.

He has recently been diagnosed with cancer. He is self employed and has been unable to work for over 6 weeks and has NO health insurance. A 13 day stay at the Good Samaritan Hospital wiped out his savings plus more. He started chemotherapy last month. He is a very proud man and is doing his best as a single parent, but he needs our help now!

A special account has been created in his name at Washington Mutual Bank. Any donations will be greatly appreciated at this time. The Club is also hoping to help in other ways. Any suggestions are welcome. The account is "ROBERT DURNEY # 3161978679." Updates will be available on our website. Bob's address is 52 Worthmore Ave., Lake Worth FL 33460. His email address is [bluebob232002@netscape.net](mailto:bluebob232002@netscape.net). If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Michelle Renee at 561-969-3291 or at [FGMR4@aol.com](mailto:FGMR4@aol.com). Our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery are with him.

According to the famous physicist and Nobel Prize winner, Albert Einstein, "Science without religion is lame. Religion without science is blind."

The following was received from Robert Lombaerde - son of Club member Alfred Lombaerde.

"Dad had a minor stroke last week. He is OK physically - eats, talks, dresses himself, knows who he is - but he is confused. He can't remember some basic things and is disoriented. He can tell you about all the jewelry he made and talks about missing Mom. Dad is now living at St Joseph's Assisted Living Center in Jupiter. Right now the phone is not working for incoming calls, but we can make calls. 561-354-4173 Here are the address details."

Alfred Lombaerde  
C/O St Joseph's ALC # 328  
350 Bush Road  
Jupiter, FL 33458

### **GRAVITATIONAL PULL**

-- by Tom Bourne

Rock collecting, to some, is a bore:  
Seeking fossils, bright crystals and ores.  
Others find it elating,  
Their collections fast weighting  
Their homes straight toward the earth's core.

Via the Shin-Skinners News 12/04

Congratulations to Kelly & Chickel Azor on their new arrival,, Eric James Azor. Eric, 7 pounds 2 ounces and 20 inches, arrived on May 20, 2007. Rumor has it on good authority that the first thing Eric did upon arrival was ask for a spool on Nymo D and a tube of 11/0's.....

## 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 and is due in **January** of the new 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

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

## 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)

You can purchase a Society patch at a General Membership Meeting.

## 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.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2007

### OFFICERS

President*	Barbara Ringhiser	588-5458
1st Vice President*	Debbie Bengtson	641-4493
2nd Vice President*	Lee Krenz	744-5196
Secretary*	Deb Slutzky	753-9937
Treasurer*	Marv Berkowitz	364-9696

### DIRECTORS

Past President*	Jack Stamper	964-4710
Past President*	Harold Shonkwiler	914-0415
Past President*	Michelle Renné	969-3291
Show Chairman*	Carl Bengtson	641-4493

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

Class Coordinator	Michelle Renné	969-3291
Club Patches & Pins	OPEN	
Field Trips	Michelle Renné	969-3291
Historians	Bill & Floralee Stein	684-0950
Hostess	Coralie Norvell	965-4748
Junior Program	OPEN	
Librarian	OPEN	
Media (video & photos)	Harold Shonkwiler	914-0415
Membership*	Ingrid Webster	793-8646
Newsletter Editor*	Jeff Ursillo	706-9549
Programs	Lee Krenz	744-5196
Raffle Coordinator	Harriet Flashenburg	733-1466
Refreshments	Debbie Anderson	965-9279
Special Projects Raffle	Junior Members	
Sunshine Committee	Karie Kiser	832-8251
Social Events	OPEN	
Head Shop Steward	John Holmstrom	585-7094
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 except for 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.

**Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches Website**  
[www.gemandmineral.cc](http://www.gemandmineral.cc)