



The next General Membership Meeting will be held on

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006

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

Program following the General Meeting

Mr. Chris Koch

Meteorites and Tektites

Although many of you might think of Chris as your source for fossil info, he has been working on acquiring meteorite specimens for a new Meteorite Lab educational program for the Science Museum. He will be bringing in many specimens from all over the globe.

He will also have a variety of genuine meteorites and tektites that will be available for purchase. In addition, Chris is donating a meteorite and tektite for the auction.

The Rockhound
Volume 40, Issue 8
April 2006

Upcoming Programs

Hello Gem/Mineral Society members! Our next program will be presented at our April 20 meeting and will deal with the topic of meteorites. The program will be presented by our society president, Chris Koch. For you gemstone fanciers, two gemstones, peridot and moldavite, have a direct connection to meteorites, as I am sure that Chris will point out. In addition, we are quite fortunate to welcome Mr. Joseph Tenhagen back to present another highly informative and interesting program in the month of May. The topic of the program which Mr. Tenhagen will present is Tuscon 2006. Please circle April 20 and May 18 on your calendars and join us for what promises to be time well spent.

Lee Krenz

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By Lee Krenz
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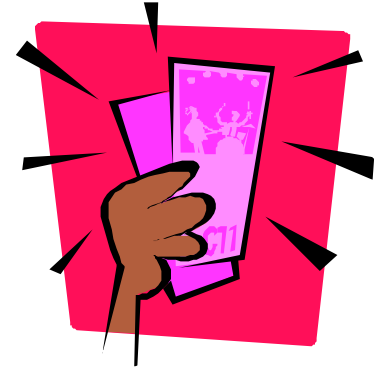
STEAK DINNER AND AUCTION

See Page 6 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 \$47! If anyone has any items they would like to donate for door prizes or auction items please give them to Barbara.

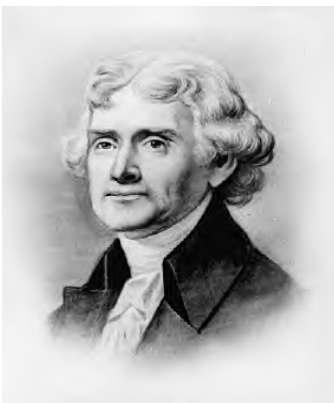
This month the door prizes will be: a bracelet made of woven beads and a sterling pendant with flower. The raffle prizes will be: coral beads, a piece of apophyllite and stilbite from Ahmednagar and a outer-space combo of a genuine Nantan Meteorite and Tektite from China. Don't miss out on these items as 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



Life in the Koch household continues to keep me busy. Cameron is walking now which means my fossils, minerals, shells, etc. need to find "Secure" new homes. We spent the past month or so going to the Tampa fossil show, and the Venice shark tooth festival. Cameron got his first Megalodon at the festival. This one is "his" and thus cannot get confused with daddy's teeth. I think he knows it's a tooth because he kept putting it in his mouth. Either that or it tastes really good. I'll have to ask him when he begins talking. I'm glad its big enough he doesn't want to swallow it. That would make an interesting x-ray.

The club has been busy getting ready for the annual show. It is going to be a big one. We are going to start looking

for volunteers beginning next month. Start thinking about what you might want to do. Carl will keep everyone updated about where help is needed at the monthly meetings. We do need help with shifts at the Frank Cox show this weekend. Please see Carl or Deb at the meeting and take a shift.

The shop is ready to go. Calling all instructors and shop stewards. We need you to have open shop. We have spent a great deal of time and money getting this all ready. It is time to put it to use. If you are interested in teaching, contact Michelle. She will have sign up lists at this month's meeting.

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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Articles not bylined are by the Editor

Newsletter
Editor

Chris Koch

General Meeting Minutes

The following minutes are for the February meeting which still need to be voted on. The March and April Minutes will be listed in next month's newsletter due to unexpected delays.

February 16, 2005 Minutes

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.

1st 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.



Show Announcement to the EFMLS

SHOW NEWS

The Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, located in beautiful, world famous Palm Beach County, Florida, is pleased to host the 56th Annual Convention and Meeting of the Eastern Federation Mineralogy and Lapidary Societies (Friday, November 17th through Sunday, November 19th). This is especially true since this is the occasion of our 40th annual show (Saturday & Sunday, November 18th & 19th). The Society, located in West Palm Beach Florida, was founded in the mid-1960's.

The EFMLS Convention will be headquartered at the Airport Holiday Inn in West Palm Beach. All EFMLS events will be located there—the Friday afternoon annual meeting, the Friday night Cracker Barrel, the Saturday night Banquet and the Sunday morning Editor's Breakfast.

Our show will be located about 5 miles from the hotel at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Show hours will be 9am- 6pm on Saturday and 10am - 5pm on Sunday. At the show, there will be 65 dealers, many educational exhibits, competitive exhibit judging, the EFMLS auction, a mini-mine, a mini-fossil dig, several speakers, gem identification, a Chinese auction, hourly door prizes, and a demo area with glass bead making, faceting, cabbing, and bead stringing in addition to others.

There will be food for sale at the show and there are also many other restaurants located near the show. Watch our website (www.gemandmineral.cc) for updates on area attractions, camping facilities, other nearby hotels, other dining locations, maps, convention schedule, prices and Holiday Inn reservation information. You'll be able to make reservations at the Holiday Inn starting May 1st.

We've also scheduled a Sunday field trip to Ruck's Pit in Okeechobee, Florida. The pit is a source of fossil shell. Watch the website for information.

We're looking forward to seeing you in November!!

Next Show Meeting will be Monday, April 24th at Don Ramon's Restaurant on Dixie Hwy.

UPCOMING SHOWS

APRIL	APRIL	MAY
April 22nd - 23rd West Palm Beach, Florida Frank Cox Productions Gem, Jewelry and Bead Show South Florida Fairgrounds 9067 Southern Blvd. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Daily Frank Cox, 941-954-0202 www.frankcoxproductions.com	April 28th - 30th 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	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

Show News

We will be having a table at the Frank Cox Show April 22 & 23 from 10 to 5 on both days if anyone would like to volunteer please call Deb at 641-4493 or sign up at the meeting Thursday night.

Gemstone Notes

PERIDOT

By Lee Krenz



Peridot is the gemstone variety of the mineral olivine. This gem has a fascinating history as it was brought back to Europe by the crusaders and was even associated with Cleopatra. It ranges in color from an intense yellowish green (almost chartreuse) to a deep forest green. It registers 6 1/2 on the Mohs Scale so it can readily be used in all forms of jewelry albeit some degree of care must be exercised. Sources of peridot span the globe and even beyond as peridot crystals have been found in some meteorites. Among these locations are St. John's Island (Egypt), Burma, Norway, and Arizona, as well as China and Hawaii. Again to allude to this gemstone's history, it has been mined for over 3,500 years.

South florida Field Trip Happenings

The Peace River is at it's LOWEST in 2 years! The findings are GREAT! You have until June to get in the good diggin's until the rains start. For directions contact Michelle. Ruck's Pit in Ft.

Drum still has occasional digs. Contact Michelle for updates. If anyone hears about another potential site ANYWHERE, contact Michelle ! There aren't many places around that will let us in.



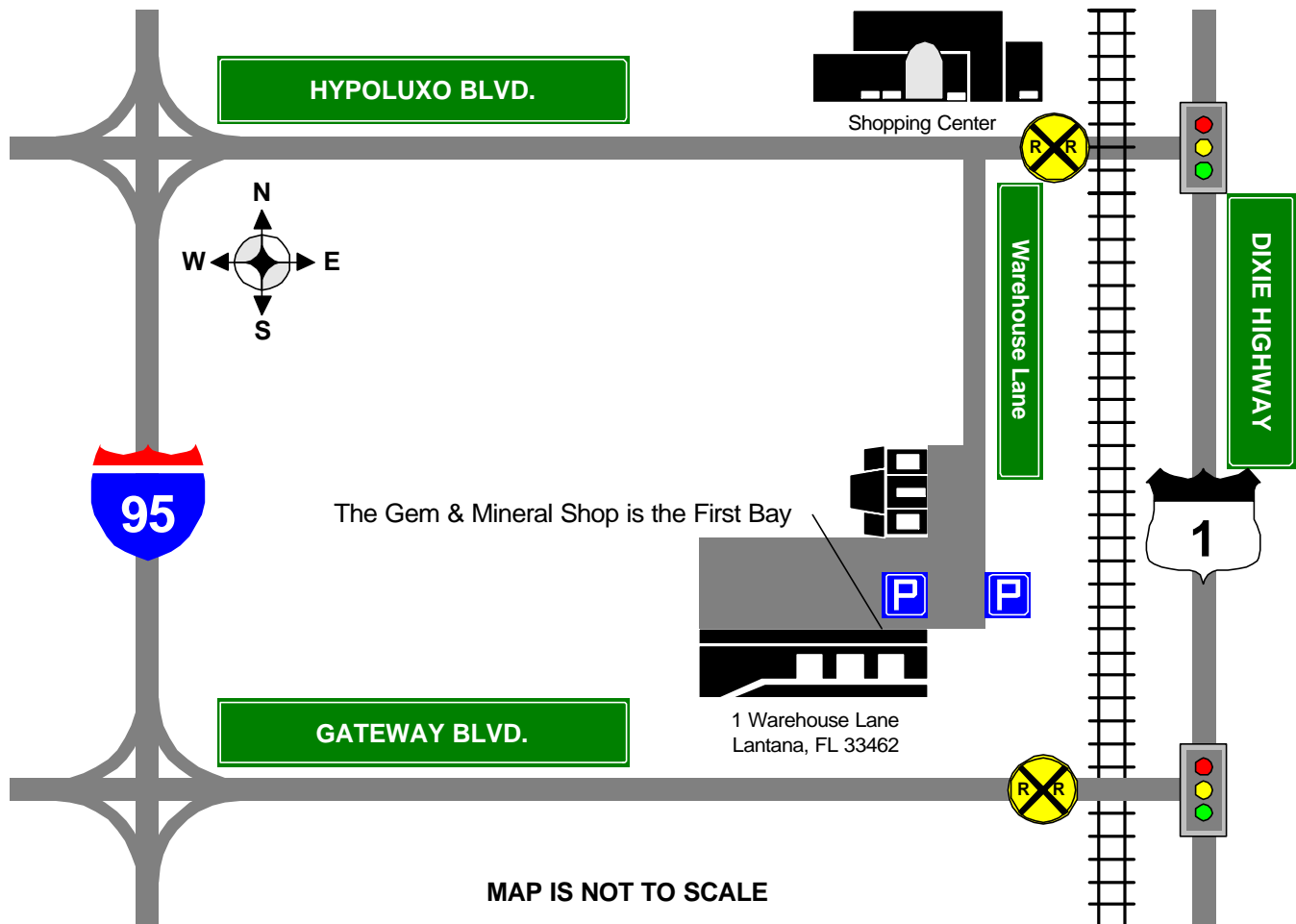
CLASS NEWS

Class lists and sign up sheets will be available at the next general meeting. Anyone interested in teaching a class or if you have any ideas future classes please contact Michelle for time schedules. Her phone number is 561/969-3291.

SHOP NEWS

Up and good enough for classes and open workshop. Need times available from shop stewards and teachers. Contact Michelle for updates at 561/969-3291.

DIRECTIONS TO THE SHOP



ANNUAL STEAK DINNER AND AUCTION

The Annual Steak Dinner and Auction is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th. If you have any items for the Auction Bring them to the meeting or let Barbara know that you will be bringing something. All proceeds go to help support the club. Jack Stamper will be returning to cook and get the auction going. More info will be available at the meeting on Thursday.

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*	OPEN	
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.