



The Rockhound

Volume 40, Issue 12
August 2006

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2006

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

Program following the General Meeting

Program for this month
will be a
spectacular
National Geographic Video
on Gemstones

Upcoming Programs

The program at our July meeting was our biannual Show and Sell with the next Show and Sell tentatively planned for December. The program for our August 21 meeting deals with spectacular gemstones via a video presentation using our newly purchased audio-visual equipment. In looking forward to our September 17 meeting, we are pleased to announce that the program will be about black coral as presented by Mr. Don Dietz. As usual, we encourage your attendance. Lee Krenz

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GEMSTONE NOTES

BY LEE KRENZ

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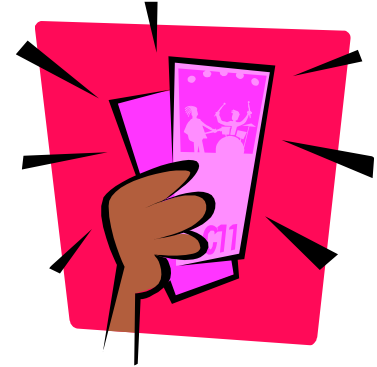
THE ROCKHOUND

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

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 \$15. 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: two bracelets made of woven beads. The raffle prizes will be: sterling earrings with rainbow moonstone cabs, a pair of polished ammonite fossils and a string of pearls. Don't miss out on these items as they will all go by the end of the night!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



Summer camp at the Science Museum is finally over and school will begin in only a few days. Luckily, the next few weeks at work for me will be a little less crazy. Due to work obligations, I have yet to get in any fossil collecting trips. I'm hoping during this slow period I will be able to get away for at least one day of diving and/or collecting.

The Shark Week at the Museum was a huge success with a more than 600 shark tooth necklaces being made. In addition more than 300 people attended lectures about sharks and collecting fossil shark teeth given by myself and the Aquarium Curator.

You will notice that included in this month is the sign-up form for the show.

It is that time of the year again for us to begin thinking of what we might do for the show. IN addition to the duties listed, there will also be others that directly relate to the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Federation. Please see Barbara or Carl to find out more on the show.

One last exciting things for me to announce is that this will be the last newsletter that I will be doing as the editor. Debbie Slutsky will be taking over in September to do it full time. With that said, she will be receiving any of the articles or other info that you want to submit to the Newsletter. Please welcome her as our new editor!

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

July 20, 2006

Meeting brought to order at 7:37 pm. There were 7 guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by the members.

MINUTES -The minutes for June meeting motioned to be accepted and were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT – was read and motion carried.

SUNSHINE – no bad news to report. If anyone hears of someone in need of a card, please contact Terry Koplin.

WEBSITE – Terry is looking for pictures to include in our website. If anyone has any from picnics, etc. or pictures of items you have made from classes, contact Terry. Our newsletter is on it so if you didn't get one or lose it, now you can obtain one!

FIELD TRIPS – summer is here and it's hot out there BUT the Rucks Pit is open for collecting although the "pit" itself is closed. The piles all around it have produced many wonderful specimens. Call Eddie FIRST to make sure he is there – 813/634-4579.

The Peace River is still accessible which is unusual for this time of year but as the rains arrive, so does the increasing depth of the river.

CLASSES – see the lists on the side table and sign up for those you are interested in. If there is a class you are interested in that isn't listed or if you can teach or know of someone who can teach as class, let Michelle Renne' know.

CALENDAR – Michelle will have the monthly calendars again listing the meetings, socials, workshops and classes.

MEMBERSHIP – Ingrid was present and had applications's for new and renewals. We had one new member sign up.

SHOW - Many vendors are all ready signed and

paid up. Things are moving along well.

SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING – Monday, August 14 at Dos Amigos in the Greenwood Shopping Center south of Forest Hill Blvd. at 6:30. Join us for dinner and an informative meeting. Anyone welcome.

EXHIBIT CASE WORKSHOP – thanks to those members who came to the repair/examination workshop for the cases last month. We got a lot done !

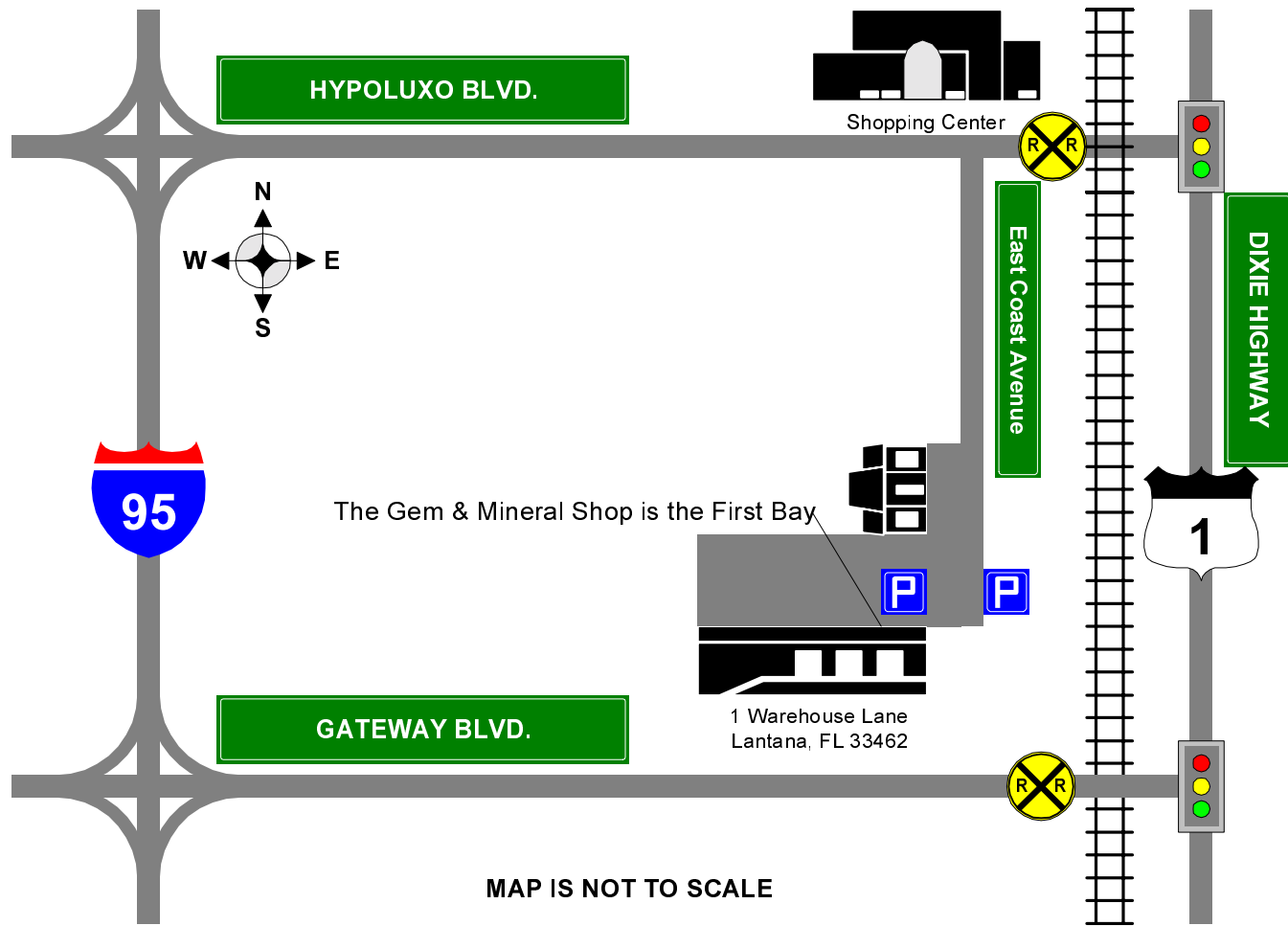
PROGRAM – tonight's program will be the club Show and Sell.

AGAIN – we have to ask that every one is considerate when someone is talking up front during the meeting or giving a presentation. If you MUST talk, please go outside or you will be escorted out.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.



MAP TO THE SHOP



UPCOMING SHOWS

AUGUST	NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER
August 18th - 20th Vero Beach, Florida Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Bead Show Vero Beach Community Center 14th Ave. & 23rd St. 18th 1-6; 19th & 20th 10-5 Anita Lane, 321-723-0742 Lane Enterprise, Inc.	November 11th - 12th Melbourne, Florida 30th Annual Parade of Gems Show Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society Melbourne Auditorium 625 Hibiscus Ave. 10:00 AM - 5:00PM Daily Anita Lane, 321-723-0742	November 24th - 26th St. Petersburg, Florida Frank Cox Productions 11th Annual Thanksgiving Show Coliseum Ballroom 535 4th Ave. North 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Daily Frank Cox, 941-954-0202 www.frankcoxproductions.com

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS are FREE to members, but I prefer receiving the ads via email if at all possible. The deadline 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.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS
LAST chance to get your subscription to Lapidary Journal for \$25/yr. and Rock and Gem for \$12. Make check out to GMSPB and give to Michelle ASAP!

GEMSTONE NOTES

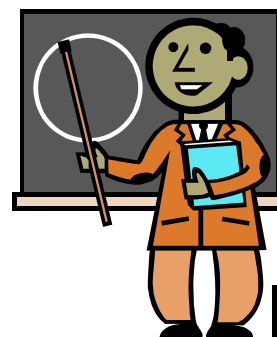
AMETHYST BY LEE KRENZ



Purple, historically considered the color of royalty, is most frequently seen in crystalline quartz with shades of purple, lilac or violet, and mauve. This is amethyst which has a rating of 7 on the Mohs scale and is used extensively in jewelry. Amethyst is dichroic, showing a bluish or reddish purple tinge when viewed from different angles. Some Russian amethyst is highly valued for the strong reflection of red found in the gemstone. Interestingly, some amethyst is heat treated to change the color to various shades of yellow, thusly producing citrine. In fact, natural citrine is not frequently found, so most citrine on the market today is heat treated amethyst. Also, crystals that are part citrine and part amethyst are referred to as ametrine. Amethyst is found in alluvial deposits or in geodes. Sources of amethyst are spread throughout the world. Brazil, Russia, Canada, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Australia, Namibia, Zambia, and the United States are some of the main sources of February's birthstone.

UPCOMING CLASSES

See the list for available classes. All Classes will be prepaid up once the classes are scheduled. No refunds unless the class is canceled or if you find someone to take your place. If there is a class you'd like to learn or teach, please contact Michelle Renne' at 561/969-3291 or at FGMR4@aol.com.



SHOP NEWS

The shop is open and waiting for you ! Check the calendar for scheduled days and times. The Shop Steward's names and phone numbers are listed so check with them before you go. There is a \$5 Shop Charge to help defray the cost of maintenance. No shop charge if you are taking a class. (it's still a great deal and we are one of the few clubs WITH a shop!). Every year you must sign a Liability Waiver. There is a Sign-In book you must sign every time you use the shop (even for classes).

SHOW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

November 18th, the start of our annual show, will be here before we know it!! Soooo...start thinking about volunteering NOW. Here's a list of volunteer positions and the duties required.

WE NEED YOU!!

YOU can make a difference! Without you, the Society members, it would be impossible to fill the many time periods necessary to make the 2006 show the best show yet! Over 100 volunteer shifts need to be filled. Please let us count on you. VOLUNTEER!!!

Please give the attached form to Barbara Ringhiser or Carl Bengtson at any meeting between now and the November meeting; or, mail the form to Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc., P.O. Box 18095, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-8095; or, call Barbara Ringhiser at 561-588-5458.

Thursday Set-up Crew - November 16th

Approximately 10 people are needed to move tables around and set up each booth area. Tables must be carried, unfolded, aligned and set up properly. Some of this is very hard work and requires two people for each table. This requires about 5 hours of moving tables around.

Friday Set-up/Sunday take-down – November 17th/19th

As many volunteers as we can get are needed during the day on Friday and from 5:00 PM on Sunday. On Friday, materials such as our display cases from the storage unit must be loaded in the rented truck and brought to the Fairgrounds where they are unloaded and set-up. On Sunday, after the Show is over, everything must be packed up, loaded in the truck and delivered back to the storage area. This is a strenuous job and requires lots of lifting, loading and unloading. This is such an important time and if there were more volunteers the load would be so much lighter for everyone.

Ticket Takers – November 18th and 19th

2 people are needed for each 2-hour time slot. The responsibilities include taking tickets at the entrance doors, tearing the ticket in half, depositing one half in the box, giving the second half to the guest. This requires either sitting on a stool or standing. 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" of the Society.

Information Table – November 18th and 19th

2 people are necessary for each 2-hour time slot, in order to help answer questions at the information table, knowledge of the Society's activities and the Show is important. The ability to be pleasant and helpful without getting flustered in this area is also important. The 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 behind a desk. Wholesale passes are issued at the information desk. Guests must register with their tax number (the form is filled out by the guest) and the information table attendant issues a pass with the guest's name written on it.

Junior Rockhound Raffle – November 18th and 19th

Two people per 2-hour time slot are needed. The responsibility is to encourage people to purchase tickets for the raffle of the many items available. It is extremely important to be friendly, inviting, cheerful, and encouraging without being insistent. The main objective is to point out the items that may be won with only a \$1.00 ticket.

Exhibits – November 16th, 17th, and 19th

The display cases must be assembled and this usually requires two people working together.

Show Security – November 18th and 19th

Two to Four people are needed for each 2-hour time slot. Responsibilities are to observe people and watch for those acting in a disorderly manner (Example: Drunk, smoking, or shoplifting) and report it to Show Chairman, Committee Chairperson, Fairground Security, or Armed Security. Show Security guards are NEVER to confront or accuse anyone but are to report it only. Greeting the public in a friendly manner is also important. This position requires walking around or standing. Also, one person for each 2-hour time slot is needed as a wholesale room security guard. A pleasant personality is needed to check wholesale passes before admitting the guest to the wholesale area. Knowledge about the show helps the guard to direct those without passes to the information table to register. This position may be carried out while in a standing or seated.

Demonstrations – November 18th and 19th

Several people at a time can be in the demonstration area for each 2-hour time slot. This is the opportunity to greet the public and show off by participating in beading, stained glass, wire wrapping, chain making, or any other lapidary skills.

Club History – November 18th and 19th

One person per 2-hour time slot is needed. This position includes greeting visitors and providing them with the opportunity to look at the history of our Society which is kept in books and photo albums. This position may be carried out while seated.

Lunch On Set-up Day – November 17th

Lunch will be served to the dealers, Society, and fairground workers on Friday, set-up day.

Mining/Fossils/Geode Cracking – November 18th and 19th

Nine people for each 2-hour time slot are necessary to run the mining area effectively. The duties include keeping the buckets filled, collecting the money, and keeping the lines moving. For the fossil dig, volunteers will be briefed on what fossils are available in the dig. There will be a card available with fossil samples.

SIGN UP FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Best time to call: _____

Positions interested in:

Please circle times you are available (2 hour shifts)

Thursday (November 16th) Set-up 9am 11am 1pm

Friday (November 17th) Set-up and Lunch committee 9am 11am 1pm

Saturday (November 18th) 9am 11am 1pm 3pm 5pm

Sunday (November 19th) 10am 12pm 2pm 4pm 5pm (take-down)

Please give this form to Barbara Ringhiser or Carl Bengtson at any meeting between now and the November meeting; or, mail the form to Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc., P.O. Box 18095, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-8095; or, call Barbara Ringhiser at 561-588-5458.

EVERY MEMBER IS A VOLUNTEER!!!

CLASSES AVAILABLE
50% OF THE COST GOES TO THE CLUB

CLASS	TEACHER	PHONE #	COST	DAY / TIME
Art Clay Silver	Michelle Renne'	561/969-3291	\$50 +\$85 materials	End of August
Beaded Cabachon	Inez Ancel	561/641-9994	TBD	TBD
Beaded Embellished Bracelet	Inez Ancel	561/641-9994	TBD	TBD
Cabachon Making	Harold Shonkwiler	561/914-0415	TBD	Beginning of August
Chain Making	Still Needed	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enameling	Michelle Renne'	561/969-3291	\$40 +\$10 materials	Beginning of August
Faceting	KC Foster	561/968-5287	\$80 +\$20 materials	Beginning of September
Fused Glass – beginner	Frank Hecker	561/742-4337	\$40 +\$10 materials	End of July
Non-Torch Forged Metal	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153	TBD	TBD
Silversmithing	Still Needed	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stained Glass	Still Needed	N/A	N/A	N/A
Torched Glass Beads	Jack Stamper	561/964-4710	TBD	Beginning of September
Viking Knit (wire)	Lisa Kuntzman	561/967-7153	TBD	TBD

- **Some classes will be scheduled when the teachers have enough students signed up.**
- **The Club receives ½ of the “class fee” – class materials are a separate charge.**
- **There is no \$5 “shop charge” for classes.**
- **If you're interested in a class NOT listed or can TEACH a class, please contact Michelle Renne' at 561/969-3291 or at FGMR4@aol.com.**

How to spend a hot week in September

Leave town!!! Wildacres Workshop, near Little Switzerland North Carolina, is the perfect place to go during the hot days of September. Located at 3300 feet above sea level and perched on a knob just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, Wildacres Retreat has all the comforts of home, except TVs, but you'll find out that you can live without them for a week. The dates are **September 18-24, 2006**.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies host three workshops a year at Wildacres, April, August and September for a week each. It's too late to get into the August workshops but we have openings left for September. Some instructors will take more than they normally do to accommodate students.

We have classes in Gem Appreciation, Glass Bead Making, Intarsia, Mineral Identification, Opal Cutting, Precious Metal Clay 2 (must have PMC 1), Scrimshaw (a new offering), Stained Glass, Wirecraft (Beginning) and the popular Southwest Silver class has only 3 openings (was full but a family had to cancel due to personal problems)

You can get applications in the Lodestar that your club president, vice president and editor receive. You can call the Registrars, Robert and Flora Lee Walker, at 1-423-369-3077 for up to date class information.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!!!

FIELDTRIPS

Collecting although the "pit" itself is closed. The piles all around it have produced many wonderful specimens. Call Eddie FIRST to make sure he is there – 813/634-4579.

The Peace River is still accessible which is unusual for this time of year but as the rains arrive, so does the increasing depth of the river.

Checking on some possible new places.

August 2006

SHOP STEWARDS: Mondays - Michelle Renne' 561/969-3291
Tuesdays - Frank Hecker 561/389-1370 Wednesdays - Harold Shonkwiler 561/914-0415
Fridays/Saturdays - Jeff Ursillo 561/706-9549 KCFoster 561/968-5287

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Board Meeting 7PM	3	4 Open Shop 6PM-9PM General Work	5
6	7 Open Shop 7PM-9PM Kiln/Torch	8 Open Shop 9AM-12PM Frank Hecker	9	10	11	12 Open Shop 9AM-12PM Jeff Ursillo
13	14	15 Open Shop 9AM-12PM Frank Hecker	16	17 General Meeting 7:30PM	18 Open Shop 6PM-9PM General Work	19
20	21 Show Meeting 7PM	22 Open Shop 9AM-12PM Frank Hecker	23	24	25	26 Open Shop 9AM-12PM Jeff Ursillo
27	28 Open Shop 7PM-9PM Kiln/Torch	29 Open Shop 9AM-12PM Frank Hecker	30	31		

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	585-4848
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	Michelle Renee`	969-3291
Club Patches & Pins	OPEN	
Field Trips	Michelle Renee`	969-3291
Historians	Bill & Florallee Stein	684-0950
Hostess	Coralie Norvell	965-4748
Junior Program	OPEN	
Librarian		
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 Koplín	848-5885
Social Events	OPEN	
Shop Stewards	OPEN	
Website Manager	Terry Koplín	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.

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches Website
www.gemandmineral.cc