



The next general membership meeting will be held  
**Thursday September 20, 2007**

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

September 20—Chris Davenport, who gave an excellent talk on the travels of “trade stones” from Pennsylvania to New Hampshire when he last visited us, will be speaking on Palm Beach County Archaeology.

**THE**

**R**

**O**

**G**

**K**

**HOUND**

**September 2007  
Volume 42 Issue 1**

## HAROLD SHONKWILER

It is with great sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Harold Shonkwiler on September 7, 2007. Harold has been in and out of the hospital and rehab centers for the past several months and seemed to have taken a positive turn when he was suddenly taken from us.

A Memorial Service for Harold will be held on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007 at 2 pm

Unity in the Pines  
6073 Summit Blvd  
West Palm Beach FL

There will be Pot Luck and Fellowship following the service

Unity is located on the north side of Summit Blvd, between Jog Rd and Haverhill Rd.

Rev. Brian LaCour of United Metaphysical Church will be the officiating Minister  
Soloist: Carolyn Wilkins      Pianist: Penny Maltner

For more information: Contact Cass Stryker 561-790-6353 or Elaine Durow



Harold receiving his show dedication plaque from Jack Stamper

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

October 6—Trip to Museum of Natural History in Gainesville see Page 4

October 14—TY Park Rock Swap and Picnic Ft. Lauderdale see Page 4

October 18—Alan Meltzer will be bringing in some of his collection of Banded Agates.

November 15—Eddie Rucks will be giving a talk on Calcite. This is also the final meeting before the annual show Nov. 17 & 18, 2007. Volunteers will be needed for the 15 and 16 show setup days.

December 13— Election of officers and member Show & Sell.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Society lost a valued member when Harold Shonkwiler passed away early this month. Please, if you can, attend Harold's memorial service on the 16th.

Attached to this newsletter are the volunteer sheets for the upcoming Society Show in November. Please give them the attention they deserve. And volunteer to make this year's show another success!

As I wrote that last paragraph, the Society's library remains locked, Junior members have no programs, and socials are not being planned. Why, you may ask? Because there are so very few people doing the work of the Society and they are spread so thin that some areas are neglected. There is only so much time and involvement that can be asked from those who do volunteer to work for the Society, and I stress the word volunteer. For our annual dues, our members get a lot! They get monthly educational programs, refreshments, classes at a very reasonable fee, use of a very well equipped shop, picnics, dinners, a monthly newsletter and more.

All that is asked in return is participation. Whether it's a few hours at the show once a year, helping with programs at the monthly meetings, opening the library cabinet, helping junior members learn about our hobby, running for office or taking an appointed position, it all goes towards making the Society just that much better. Whether the part you play is small or large, it truly does matter to the quality of the Society as a whole.

Please take this message to heart and consider playing your part in the Gem and Mineral Society.

See you at the meeting

*Barbara*

### **DUES RENEWAL TIME IS COMING!!**

Please remember to pay your 2008 dues in the period between October 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008

Also, new members joining during that period will be paid for the year 2008.

## DOOR PRIZES!!

### RAFFLE ITEMS!!!

Please remember, every person arriving before 7:30 will receive a FREE door prize ticket. Come early this month so you can get a ticket for a gold bracelet with black beads. *Don't miss out on these items!*



The raffle prizes for September include a pair of hematite earrings, a shark tooth pendant, and a man made pink Sapphire in the emerald cut.

For the remainder of 2007, the proceeds from the monthly raffle will be donated to Bob Durney. \$82 was raised at the August meeting.

*We need your donations!!* If anyone has *collected too much*, any donations would be appreciated for our monthly raffles.

**Harriet Flashenburg**, Raffle Coordinator

## A LITTLE OFF TOPIC, BUT INTERESTING

HOUSTON -- Astronauts on space shuttle Discovery will have a little something extra in their gear when they blast off in October: Luke Skywalker's original Jedi lightsaber.

As part of the 30th anniversary celebration of "Star Wars," NASA has agreed to carry the prop weapon into orbit.

collectSPACE.com said the lightsaber will be handed over to the space agency by Chewbacca at the Oakland Airport, not far from George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch. It reported the priceless piece will be greeted in Houston by a group of Stormtroopers, along with R2D2.

*From the Associated Press 8/27/07*

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please have items for the September ROCKHOUND to the editor by October 7th. Submissions can be emailed to [BNMJJEFF@AOL.COM](mailto:BNMJJEFF@AOL.COM) or you can call Jeff Ursillo 561-706-9549

The Rockhound  
Copyright 2007  
by the

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.

Permission to reprint original material herein not otherwise copyrighted is granted provided credit is given to both author and publication.

Articles not bylined are by the Editor.

## **MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 16, 2007**

Presiding, **Barbara Ringhiser**, President.

**MEETING** – The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM at the Garden Club.

**PROGRAM** – The program for this month was a Power Point and video presentation on Opals by Sandy Mielke. **Alan Meltzer** will be talking about Banded Agates in October. Eddie Rucks will be speaking about Calcite in November. We may have a Show-N-Sell in December. December is re-election of officers. Please start thinking about whether you would like to run for a board position.

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

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

**SUNSHINE** – **Karie Kiser** was absent and no report was available.

**NEWSLETTER** – **Jeff Ursillo** reported that everything is status quo with the newsletter.

**WEB SITE** – **Terry Koplín** reported that she is taking pictures for the Web site and asked if anyone took pictures of the Show-N-Sell on August 11<sup>th</sup> to please share those with her for the Web site. **Terry** found that statistics are available from Yahoo and was pleased to find out that we get thousands of hits on our Web site daily. She also mentioned that she gets emails to the Web site from people all over the world. Terry added a link to a great site about agates.

**FIELD TRIPS** – **Barbara Ringhiser** informed everyone that the deadline for signing up for the Gainesville trip is September 7<sup>th</sup>. You can sign up at the meetings or by contacting **Barbara** by phone or email. Information will be on the Web site. So far, sign-ups have been disappointing. We need at least 45 people to sign up or the trip will be cancelled.

**SHOP** – **John Holmstrom** reported that work and organization on the shop is proceeding and the shop continues to improve. The shop rules will be finalized at the next Board meeting and posted in the shop and on the Web site.

**CLASSES** – **Michelle Renee'** reported that **Jack Stamper** will still try to teach his Silversmithing Class before he moves out of town in September. If

he is not able to teach, then **Michelle** may be able to take over the class or perhaps a new member of the club who has some experience with it may also be able to take over the class.

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

**MEMBERSHIP** – **Ingrid Webster** reported that two new members signed up tonight and she has free tickets available at the meeting for a jewelry show coming up in Miami.

**SHOW** – **Carl Bengtson** was absent. **Deb Bengtson** reported that nothing much has been happening over the summer. The next show meeting will be September 17<sup>th</sup> at KC Foster's house. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

**BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Olive Garden, corner of Lake Worth Rd and 57<sup>th</sup> St. in Green Acres. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM. Join us for dinner and an informative meeting. Everyone is welcome.

**SOCIAL EVENTS** – There will be another Rock Swap at TY Park on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Details will be in the next newsletter. 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 brought in \$83 which will be donated to the **Bob Durney** fund.

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

**MISC.** – Three guests attended the meeting.

**Jerry Gewirtz** gave us some information about Peridot and gave away a Peridot as a prize for guessing the identify of a Peridot from several rock samples. He also gave away a green amethyst.

**Barbara Ringhiser** still has Endowment Fund tickets for sale.

The activities coordinator at La Posada Assisted Living facility contacted **Barbara** to ask if any club members are interested in teaching a class there, doing demonstrations, or showing off their collection at the facility.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Submitted by Deb Slutzky, Secretary*



## **SHOW COMMITTEE**

The next show committee meeting will be held at 6:30 PM, Sept 17 at KC Foster's house. Please try to attend and take a more active roll in this year's show. Call Carl Bengtson (641-4493) or KC Foster (968-5287) for directions and meeting time.

## **NEW AT THE SHOW THIS YEAR!**

Cleaning out the garage or your house? Don't throw away those club related items. The show will be adding a new feature this year, an auction. We are looking for items to auction. Wanted: Donations of Lapidary Equipment, tools, finished pieces of jewelry or works in progress and mineral specimens for the club auction at the show. Call Carl Bengtson 641.4493 or bring items to the next meeting.

## **EXHIBITS**

It's time to get those exhibits together for our 41st annual Gem, Mineral, Bead, Jewelry and Fossil Show. These exhibits are for in-house enjoyment only...we want to see what you love, too!! Please contact me for more information.

KC Foster 561-968-5287

## **SHOP NEWS**

Thanks to head steward John Holmstrom and Lynn La Rue, the fused glass backlog has been cleared! It took 6 firings, at 4 plus hours each. Due to the additional costs of materials and electricity associated with firing, when fused glass open shop is started up again, it will require an additional \$1 for the cost of fusing paper and electricity.

MSDS sheets have been posted above the saws for the mineral oil used in the small trim saws and the Pella oil used in the 16" saw.

The new shop rules have been finalized and posted in several places in the shop. It is required that members using the shop read and understand the new rules. A space will be made on the liability forms for you to acknowledge your receipt of your copy of the rules.

*Marv Berkowitz, Society Treasurer, sent the following after reading the article on Natron in the August 2007 Rockhound*

As a glassblower and docent at the Sandwich Glass Museum, I like to relate the history of glass to my audiences through the following story.

Over 3500 years ago some Phoenician sailors were transporting natron to be used by the Egyptians as embalming material. Natron was a naturally found alkaline substance that was mainly sodium carbonate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ , if my valences are correct) and was being transported as bricks. These sailors became hungry and brought their boat in to shore. On the sand of the beach, they built a fireplace using the alkaline bricks. After they cooked their meal and the fire went out, they noticed that there was a reaction between the natron and the sand, leaving a shiny material that we now call "glass".

We now know that what really happened was that the sand (silicon dioxide) which has a melting point in excess of 3000 degrees F. had that temperature lowered by 1000 degrees due the presence of the alkalizer. It probably took another 1000 years before the Egyptians made something practical by dipping a metal rod coated with clay into the molten glass and made a "core formed" vessel. I know that this sounds rather technical, but at the museum we are able to demonstrate all of this using hot glass.

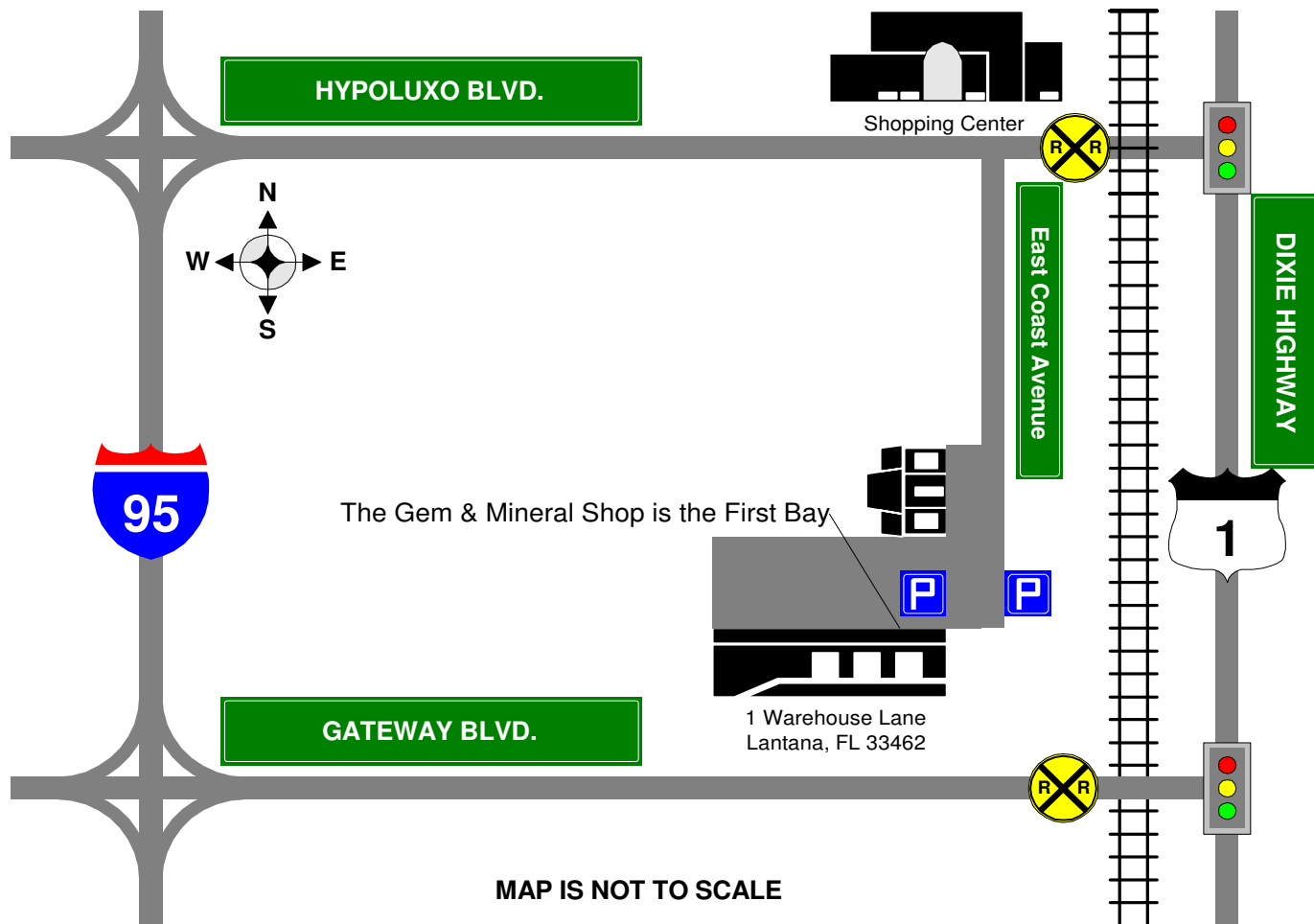
## **LONG DISTANCE VOYAGERS**

NASA's two venerable Voyager spacecraft are celebrating three decades of flight as they head toward interstellar space. Voyager 2 launched on Aug. 20, 1977, and Voyager 1 launched on Sept. 5, 1977. They continue to return information from distances more than three times farther away than Pluto.

They each carry a golden record that is a time capsule with greetings, images and sounds from Earth. The records also have directions on how to find Earth if the spacecraft is recovered by something or someone.

"A billion years from now, when everything that we have ever built on Earth has crumbled into dust, when the continents are changed beyond recognition, and our species is unimaginably altered, or extinct, the Voyager Record will still speak for us."

*Carl Sagan*



MAP IS NOT TO SCALE

**UPCOMING SHOWS**

**September 21-23**  
**JACKSONVILLE, FL**  
 19th annual show  
 Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society  
 Morocco Temple  
 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd.  
 Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6;  
 adults \$3 one day, \$5 weekend;  
 gems, minerals, fossils, beads,  
 30-plus dealers  
 contact Mary Chambliss,  
 2452 Holly Point Rd.  
 Orange Park, FL 32073  
 (904) 269-4046  
 e-mail: IvoryTowers@msn.com.

**October 13-14**  
**ORLANDO, FLORIDA**  
 16th annual "Fossil Fair"  
 Florida Fossil Hunters  
 Central Florida Fairgrounds,  
 Bldg. A, 4603 W. Colonial Dr.;  
 Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3,  
 children \$1; fossils, rocks, gems,  
 minerals, artifacts, related  
 equipment, books, silent auc-  
 tions, raffles, children's dig pit;  
 contact Valerie First  
 4603 W. Colonial Dr.  
 Orlando, FL 32708  
 (407) 699-9274  
 e-mail: vjfirst@aol.com  
 Web site  
 www.floridafossilhunters.com.

**October 27-28**  
**TAMPA, FLORIDA**  
 48th annual show  
 Tampa Bay  
 Mineral & Science Club  
 Florida State Fairgrounds  
 4800 U.S. Hwy. 301 N  
 Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5  
 adults \$5, students \$4, children  
 under 6 free; silent auction, dis-  
 plays, demonstrations, wire  
 wrap classes, PMC classes  
 contact Jan Hendershot  
 11316 Leprechaun Dr.  
 Riverview, FL 33569  
 (813) 671-9556  
 e-mail: jan.hendershot@verizon.net  
 Web site  
 www.tampabayrockclub.com.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9	10 Open Shop 7-9PM	11	12 Open Shop* 7-9PM	13	14 Open Shop 7-9PM General Work	15 Open Shop* 2-5 PM
16 Memorial for Harold Shonk- wiler 2:00 PM See Front page	17 Open Shop 7-9PM Show Commit- tee Mtg 6:30 PM See Page 5	18	19 Open Shop* 7-9PM	20 General Meeting 7:30PM Palm Beach County Archaeology	21 Open Shop 7-9PM General Work	22 Open Shop* 2-5 PM
23	24 Open Shop 7-9PM	25	26 Open Shop* 7-9PM	27	28 Open Shop 7-9PM General Work	29 Open Shop* 2-5 PM

## OCTOBER 2007

30	1 Open Shop 7-9PM	2	3 Board Meeting 6:30 PM Olive Garden Lake Worth	4	5 Open Shop 7-9PM General Work	6 Field Trip Museum of Natural History Gainesville
7 Newsletter Submission deadline	8 Open Shop 7-9PM	9	10 Open Shop* 7-9PM	11	12 Open Shop 7-9PM General Work	13 Open Shop* 2-5 PM
14 Rock Swap and Picnic TY Park Ft. Lauderdale See Page 4	15 Open Shop 7-9PM	16	17 Open Shop* 7-9PM	18 General Meeting 7:30PM Alan Meltzer Banded Agates	19 Open Shop 7-9PM General Work	20 Open Shop* 2-5 PM

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 **Saturday** (On call only)– Keith Allum 561/689-2565

On call – KC Foster 561/968-5287— **SHOP PHONE** 561/585-2080

## **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	September	
Beginner Beading	Ingrid Webster	561-793-8646	TBD	TBD	
Cabochon	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Chain Making Basic & Advanced	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Enameling on Copper	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	\$40 + \$10 materials	September	
Faceting	KC Foster	561-968-5287	\$80 + \$20 materials	Beginning of September	
Fused Glass Beginner	Frank Hecker	561-742-4337	\$40+ \$10 Materials	TBD	
No-solder Wire Work	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	\$30 + \$20 materials	TBD	
Pearl Knotting	Ingrid Webster	561-793-8646	\$25	TBD	
Pottery Jewelry	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	\$30 + \$10 materials	TBD	
Silversmithing	Michelle Renné	561-969-3291	TBD	October	
Stained Glass	Anna Medley	561-313-1594	TBD	TBD	
Torched Glass Beads	Jack Stamper	561-964-4710	\$50 + materials	September	
Torched Glass Bead advanced	Jan Comos	561-969-9564	TBD	Early 2008	
Viking Knit (wire)	Marv Berkowitz	561-364-9696	TBD	Fall	

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)

**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 [melodiebeads@aol.com](mailto:melodiebeads@aol.com). If you would like to see my work we can arrange to meet or I will send you pictures.

**FOR SALE**—Raytech 8" Gem Maker and Pump. Many extras included. \$700. Call Paul or Janis after 5:00 PM at 561-733-5038

My name is Bill Rogers. I am looking for partners who would like to drive over to the Peace River, rent a canoe and spend a half day on the river looking for sharks teeth and fossils. Phone 561-965-2552, email [pote89@att.net](mailto:pote89@att.net).

### **FLORIDA GOLD COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

The next meeting is September 19, 2007 at the Apple Creek Community Center on W. Sunrise Blvd. Visit their web site at [www.fcgms.com](http://www.fcgms.com)

### **BOB DURNEY CANCER FUND**

A special account has been created in Bob's 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 Reneé at 561-969-3291 or at [FGMR4@aol.com](mailto:FGMR4@aol.com).

### **UPDATE ON BOB....**

Bob's doctor started him on a second round of chemo 3 weeks ago. Hopefully this will be the LAST of it so he can recover, recuperate, and get back to a healthy life for himself and his son, Donovan. It has been a very tough 4-1/2 months for both of them but through help, prayers and Bob's will to "Beat It", his chances for many more years look better. He even gained 3 pounds! He is keeping his "Kojak" hair style for now. He has received donations from our club, other clubs and members which have helped with the enormous medical bills since he still cannot work. If anyone would like to send a personal donation, his address and phone number are: 522 Worthmore Ave., Lake Worth, FL 33460 561/585-4848.

### **THE "THIS AND THAT" CORNER**

A new auction site has started recently that lists only products and supplies for the Lapidary trade. The site currently is offering free Etsy type stores until Jan. 1 2008, when the store fees will go to \$50 per year. There are NO final Value fees as on Ebay. They currently have some listing for slabs and larger pieces of cutting rough, as well as knapping supplies. Visit [www.dragonsayeauctions.com](http://www.dragonsayeauctions.com).

Want to get a head start on October's program on agates? This site focus not on banded agates, but on agates with inclusions. The site is very well laid out, user friendly, and has some breath taking photos. Visit: [www.agateswithinclusions.com](http://www.agateswithinclusions.com)

At the September meeting there will be a clipboard circulating with plenty of blank paper on it. I would like to start the "Member news" column again that I had written in past issues of the *Rockhound*. This is a sort of semi-anonymous way to "blow your own horn". Just write what you have been up to on the clipboard and I will write it up for the next issue of the *Rockhound*.

There is also a change in the monthly calendar (page 7). I felt that since the *Rockhound* is issued in the middle of the month, the new format made sense. Let me know what you think.

Jeff

## 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	772-631-3576
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)

# **It's SHOWTIME!!!!**

November 17, the start of our annual show, will be here before we know it!! That means it is time to 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, our society members, it would be impossible to fill the many time periods necessary to make the 2008 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 the September, October or 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 to sign up.

### **Thursday Set-up Crew – November 15th**

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 position requires about 5 hours of moving tables around.

### **Friday Set-up/Sunday Take-down – November 16th and 18th**

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, 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—if there were more volunteers the load would be so much lighter for everyone!**

### **Ticket Takers – November 17th and 18th**

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. This position 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" that people get of our society.

### **Information Table – November 17th and 18th**

Two people are necessary for each 2-hour time slot. Responsibilities include answering questions concerning the show 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.

### **Junior Rockhound Raffle – November 17th and 18th**

Two people per 2-hour time slot are needed. Responsibilities include encouraging 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 18th**

Two to four people are needed for each 2-hour time slot. Display cases must be assembled and this usually requires two people working together.

### **Show Security – November 17th and 18th**

Two to 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, Fairground Security, or Armed Security. Show Security guards should NEVER confront or accuse anyone, ONLY report it. Greeting the public in a friendly manner is also important. This position requires walking around or standing.

### **Demonstrations – November 17th and 18th**

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, stained glass, wire wrapping, chain making, or any other lapidary skills.

### **Club History – November 17th and 18th**

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 16th**

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

### **Mining/Fossils/Geode Cracking – November 17th and 18th**

Nine people for each 2-hour time slot are necessary to run the mining area effectively. Duties include keeping buckets filled, collecting money, and keeping 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 3pm

Friday (November 17th) Set-up and Lunch committee 9am 11am 1pm 3pm

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 the September, October or 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 to sign up.

## ***EVERY MEMBER IS A VOLUNTEER!!!***