

September 2011

# THUMBlickER

## Newsletter of the Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society



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### CFMGS Officers, Committee Leaders and Instructors

**President:** Michelle Bogle

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** John Piziak

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Bob Cole

**Webmaster:** Linda Bycz

**Treasurer:** Wynn Taylor

**Includes membership**

**Field Trip/Activity Director:**

**Paul Bordenkirchen**

**Shop Director:** Paul Hayes

**Show Chair;** Salvatore Sansone

### Instructors

**Cabochon:** Michelle Bogle, Fred Tunderman,  
Emilio Garcia

**Faceting:** Emilio Garcia, Fred Tunderman

**Wire wrap:** Linda Bycz

**Silversmith:** Tom Davis, John Piziak

**Stained Glass:** Emilio Garcia

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Publishing deadline is the first Saturday of each month. E-mail your information or send bulletin items and exchange to the editor at the club address

**105 Drennen Road  
Orlando, Fl 32806**

The Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies.

The CFMGS was established in 1961 and now has 131 members and sponsors two (2) large Mineral and Gem shows each year.

# MEETING MINUTES

Meeting call to order 7:22pm

**Stood for the Pledge of Allegiance**

**President's Report**

There was no Board meeting tonite as John Piziak is away for a wedding, and Gordon had some problems with lightening at his home and had to leave.

Secretary is also out due to illness.

There were some discussions on door entry fees for the show. Age 6 and under get in free with adult. Talk of making 12 and under free. Also, discounts on groups of 4 or more. No votes on this, still open for later discussion.

Michele mentioned again that we need an active youth group and someone to step up and be their director. We want our youths to get involved with the club. By having a jr. rockhounds director, we can get our kids involved with show displays and crafts that can be made and sold at the show. As mentioned previously, they can earn badges thru the American Federation, and our club can have an award program for them. Michele has some ideas on this and welcomes any other ideas. If you are interested in leading our Jr. Rockhounds, please let Michele know. Even a teenager 16 and up can take this position. Jr. groups can have their own meetings and activities when we have our monthly meeting.

We're still looking for members interested in becoming the clubs Historian. Michele has found some old stuff that needs to be documented and put in a history book and on pc disc. If you like delving into the past, this is a good opportunity to do so.

Anyone who likes to do scrap booking; please consider putting a scrap book together for our club. This can be done by an individual or as a scrap book committee. As a committee, it's a great way to socialize and get to know other members. This would be a nice benefit for the club and will be in our entrance display area, also will be used at shows.

In the past, we have had some problems with getting volunteers together for our shows and keeping the clubhouse clean. Michele has spoken with the Probation office on getting us official for using persons required to perform community service; focusing mainly on youthful offenders. "I have received the paper work from them and stand ready to fill it out and send it in. I would welcome any feedback on this subject. Keeping in mind, we don't HAVE to except just anyone showing up to perform services for us. Also, keep in mind that there is a lot to be done both at shows and here at our club.

Until we can get a youth program going, we can use them to help us make displays for the shows and make items to be sold at shows and Rockfest to generate more income."

Discussion on this was as follows...

\*They would have to be made a member for insurance purposes; but not allowed to take classes if they choose to, until their service is completed. Who knows, we may get young people involved in our club, keeping them from further trouble.

\*There were concerns of having convicted armed robbery, breaking & entering or violent crimes.

\*Keeping them away from monies, this is without question, and vendors' goods.

\*Using them only for set up & break down, but not during show hrs.

\*Will we be able to find out what they're conviction is.

\*We have a member who is involved with Back to Nature, a program that rehabilitates injured wildlife; that uses offenders required to perform community service. We will ask them if they have experienced any problems with this.

\*We would require all community service persons to fill out a form, asking nature of crime, listing Probation officers' name & ph# and so forth. This would be for insurance purposes also.

\*\*No final decision was made at this time. Open for further discussion.

I have had some members come to me with some concern over a member continuously berating the equipment. I have this to say; please don't express your negativity aloud for all to hear. We have top of the line equipment for the most part, and we don't want to discourage new members; we want to keep them. If you don't like the equipment, then don't use it. Most of the damage comes from mis-use. If you notice something is broken, put an out of order sign on it and let Paul Hayes know so he can fix it.

### **No Vice President report**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – attendance is 21 members with no visitors

### **Treasurers' Report**

Winn reports all bills are current. We received our rental deposits back from our old location. This also includes electric deposits.

July was very slow for our workshop classes. We need to get people in to take more classes. We still have expenses with no income coming in.

We currently have 137 members – 1 new this month.

\*\*members wanting a more detailed account of expenses, income and banking information may contact Winn Taylor\*\*

### **Show Chairman Report**

Sal reminds everyone that we still need a lot of volunteers. We have a sign up board which lists times and days to sign up for specific areas. This board is still more than half empty at this time. November is drawing near, please come and sign up to help us out. We need this show to be successful in order to get our finances back in order.

Debby reminded us we still need silent auction donations and asks members to donate. We need a lot of items as we ran very low at last show. Michele confirmed she would donate a box of minerals & rocks.

Michele brought up the use of small kiddie pools to be used as sandboxes for the kids corner. There was discussion on how much to charge for a timed rock search. Sal agreed to \$2.00 for three minutes.

Sal is open to suggestions on ideas for advertising. We need to spend as little as possible and generate as much advertising, or more as past shows. Our report of our spring show showed that we brought in the same amount of people we usually bring in with a much higher advertising expense. Michele agreed to use Facebook to continually advertise and asks members who have facebook to post & re-post the show dates on their wall and friends' wall. Also, most radio stations and news channels have a facebook, be sure to post on your favorites. The more members that do this, the more people will see it. It is a free way to advertise, and I believe it is effective, but only as effective as the amount of people that participate in helping in this area. So please facebook users, donate a few moments of your time each week up until our show. Starting the beginning of October shouldn't be too soon.

We're out of our printed post cards. There was discussion on whether we should get more printed, or use an alternative. It was agreed that we would send out our flyers in place of postcards. We generally have at least a half box of flyers left over. This would cut down on an added expense with same results as sending the post cards. Flyers will be folded and sealed with mailing labels attached. GOOD JOB!! 😊

We're going to need sluice bags made; a date to do this has not been made yet. Be sure to come and help out.

### **Editors Report**

Gordon made it back to the meeting. Everything okay at home. No report for editor, but mentioned the rolling mill may have some damage. It appears to have been used while the metal was still very hot. Tom went in to check on this, cleaned the rollers up and reported everything was fine.

### **Instructors Report**

Fred made mention that due to the way we are set up, if you are in the shop, you can't hear anyone come in through the front entrance. This can be a safety hazard for those that are there at night. Discussions on methods of alerting the workshop side when the front entrance is used. Fred suggested a buzzer system and perhaps a light also, so when the saws are going, you can see a light, when you may not hear the buzzer. Paul Hayes said he will put in a motion sensor buzzer

immediately. This will suffice until we install a better alarm system.

### **Old Business**

Gordons' motion to have board members receive free shop time was presented for votes. Gordon wanted to remind everyone why he made this motion. He feels the board works just as hard as, perhaps harder than some instructors, so they should receive the same compensation. Our President is trying to remain neutral but gives an account of why it may not be beneficial to the club. She states that "first, we are a volunteer club, founding members as well as other past board members understood that there would always be a small minority volunteering their time to make the club, and keep it functioning for the larger majority. This is the way it is with most volunteer organizations. Secondly, how to determine how much time to give one officer vs. another; and then we have our committee personnel that work just as hard, and in some cases harder than our board members. So if the board gets free shop time, then the committee members should to. So now you have so many members receiving free time and the members that come in every week that do pay, may feel left out. Then we have our Treasurers' statement that free shop time doesn't pay the bills, which is absolutely true".

So with this said, votes were cast and the motion was unanimously denied.

The president let Gordon know she understood where he was coming from and appreciated his concern. Matter closed.

Michele brought up the subject again of getting wi-fi and a phone with a basic answering machine for the club. The wi-fi can be used in aiding our committees on future projects. The ph# can be put on business cards for the club and added to the website as contact ph #. That way we shouldn't miss calls. The president doesn't always answer unknown numbers, and other board members confirmed the same. Michele is willing to wait until after the show, when our finances are in better standing.

Votes were cast for the phone... all in agreement, so we will be getting a club phone and answering machine after our show.

Votes were cast for wi-fi... all in agreement, so we will also be getting wi-fi after our show.

### **New Business**

Belinda Yarnell brought in several very nice office chairs she has donated to the club. Thank you Belinda! Now we can get rid of the ones that tossed you over backwards when ever you leaned back.

### **General Discussion**

Discussion on installing an alarm system; perhaps with cameras at both doors. This is more for our night classes' safety when leaving the building. For the most part, the area is not a bad location, but we are close to the city where you may find more vagrants around. Also, we have to consider the amount of equipment we have. With our economy in such dire straights, there is more break ins occurring. More on this at next meeting.

### **Show and Tell**

Kay Benham showed off her and Toms 'Illusion' intarsia pendant that was on the cover of Lapidary Journals Jewelry Artist magazine. This pendant was the topic of one of the 'step by step' projects in the August issue. I must say that it is even more stunning in person. The color scheme was beautiful, as well as the craftsmanship. Kay also had a copy of the magazine and passed it around for us to see. Tom & Kay are master lapidaries, and have their own monthly column in Lapidary Journal titled 'Ask the Experts'; an informative column that answers your questions pertaining to lapidary. Michele asked them a question regarding stamping metal. Their answer will be in a future issue. Also, Tom and Kay were invited to the Denver Gem & Mineral show where they will be demonstrating. They are currently teaching at the Denver School of Metal Arts, and teach at William Holland in Georgia throughout the year.

Emilio Garcia showed off his electrical copper wire on petrified wood. He rolled the round wire into square, using the rolling mill. He also showed us a sterling silver filigree ring with black jade. Emilio likes to do very fine filigree, his work is stunning. Also shared was his dichroic glass (which he also made), and copper pendant.

### **Door Prizes**

Winners are...

Kay Benham

Fred Tunderman

Belinda Yarnell

Kathy Storm

Betty Sumner

Paul Hayes

Raymond Taylor

### **50/50**

Won by: Raymond Taylor

Michele motioned to adjourn for refreshments and social hour. Accepted by Fred Tunderman.

### **From the President**

A post was sent out to all members inviting us to the GIA - Florida branch meeting. Roy Peters has extended this invitation to our group. He is also a member of our club. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all. Attending this meeting will bring you up to date on what's happening in the gemstone trade. This meetings' topic will focus on the 'lead glass' filled gemstones. For those of you that aren't aware, some of the importers of gems are filling in fractures and other undesired flaws in certain gemstones with leaded glass. To the naked eye, it is virtually undetected. GIA members will be discussing, and showing how to determine if your stone has been filled. Don't miss out.

### **Looking for members to form a poster board committee on**

**Saturdays.** Until we can get a jr.

rockhound program underway, us adults will need to get creative together. So come on in on Saturdays for some Arts & Craft fun. We will be making poster displays for our shows.

### **Want to learn to make gemtrees?**

**Free?** We will be having free gemtree making classes a couple of Saturday's just prior to our Nov. show. If you would like to donate some of your time making a tree or two for the club, then be sure to keep an eye out for those Saturday dates.

**Have equipment to sell?** The club will have tables at the November show. We will be selling donated items and equipment. If you would like to sell some of your lapidary equipment, but not rent a table, then you can place your items on our tables. The club is asking for 20% of final sales, if your equipment doesn't sell, then you will not be charged.

### **Rubber casting molds - Donation**

A special thank you goes out to the person that donated several large boxes of rubber casting molds. Shame on me for not remembering who you are!! I remember speaking to some one on the phone asking if our club would like to have them, but I am terribly sorry because I cannot remember who I spoke to. Please contact me so I can properly thank you and also list your name in our 'history in the making' log. We were all very excited about receiving them. WOW!! There is A LOT of molds. We can now cast just about any type of jewelry there is.

### **Just a reminder that we have a**

**library.** If you didn't know, we have a library that is full of interesting books and magazines you can come in and read, or you may check them out. Remember to fill out the library card if you need to take some thing home. You can flip through some of our older magazines and read articles from the 1960's,

70's 80's and up to current time. There are some very interesting articles in the older magazines.

## **Cleaning Quartz Crystals**

**Re – post from the Thumblicker February 2008**

**Submitted by Jim Johnstone**

**Original article written by Stuart Schmitt**

[www.arcrystmmine.com](http://www.arcrystmmine.com)

Cleaning quartz crystals is a three step process. First, the clay must be washed off the crystals. Second, the iron oxide film coating is removed in an oxalic acid bath. And last, the oxalic acid is washed off in fresh water. Sounds simple, but there are many ways to do each step depending on the type of crystal (points or clusters) and the quantity you have to clean.

Washing the clay off of the crystals is not always as easy as it sounds, especially with clusters. Points are fairly easy to wash with a garden hose. In do not recommend doing it in your kitchen sink because the clay can plug up your sink traps and plumbers are more expensive than your crystals. Most clusters have small cracks and crevices filled with clay. A pressure washer works best to flush out the clay. You can let the clusters dry out in the sun for a couple of days after washing to shrink the clay and pressure wash again. This process may have to be repeated several times. The cleaner the crystal, the more effective the acid bath. Trapped clay prevents the oxalic acid from removing the iron film in that spot. The clay and iron oxide will eventually turn you acid green, and eventually reducing the effectiveness. So do not rush the process and remove as much clay as possible before putting the crystal in acid.

Oxalic acid can be purchased in powder form at most drug stores, cleaning supply houses or rock shops. Prices will vary with quantity, but expect to pay \$2 - \$4 per pound. Mix the oxalic acid with fresh water. The recommended mixtures varies from one pound oxalic acid to two gallons of water, and up to one pound acid per five gallons of water. I use one pound oxalic acid per two gallons of water. If you see funny green crystals

growing in your solution you know you have added more oxalic than can dissolve in the water, you're saturated. This will not hurt anything, it just looks funny. Now you have to decide how fast you want to remove the iron oxide film off of your crystals. If you are not in a hurry, you can let them soak in a plastic bucket in the sun for several days. If you are in a hurry you need to heat the acid. I do not recommend building a fire under your plastic bucket. An old crock pot works fine for the smaller crystals. Half of a 55 gallon drum will work for the bigger ones. Set the drum on cement blocks and build a wood fire under it for a few hours. You can also use a propane burner to heat the acid. I do not recommend cooking your crystals on top of your kitchen stove and do not put oxalic acid in aluminum pans. The oxalic acid should be heated in a well ventilated area and wear rubber gloves if you stick your hands in the solution. And be sure to neutralize your acid with baking soda, lime or ashes from your fireplace before disposing of it.

When you remove the crystal from the acid, you should wash them thoroughly with fresh water. I use a pressure washer to remove any clay residue. If you're not satisfied with the results, repeat steps 1 thru 3. I've had to clean small needle point clusters six times before I was satisfied with them. Some clusters have trapped clay that cannot be removed except with a hammer. You can get them clean this way, but they don't look very nice when your done.

Trick – The porous sandstone base of some clusters will turn green in dirty, hot oxalic acid. When the sandstone gets hot the pores expand and open allowing the acid to penetrate. When the sandstone cools the pores will close trapping the acid and turning the sandstone green. One method to removing the green is to re – heat the clusters in acid to open the pores, and while still warm, put them in warm soapy water (dish soap) to soak for several days in the sun. The soap water will neutralize the acid turning the sandstone base back to its normal color. It's best to use clean fresh acid when cleaning clusters that have a sandstone base.

Another way to clean sandstone base clusters is to heat them in clean water before putting them in the acid bath. This will open the pores and fill them with water. Then, when you heat the clusters in acid, the acid cannot penetrate the water filled sandstone. Soaking sandstone base clusters in cold (non heated) acid for

several days will also prevent most of the green problem.

how it compares to oxalic, but our finished points look good. One bottle did our bucket full"

For small crystal cleaning jobs you can use a product called 'iron out'. Iron out is used to remove rust stains from sinks, bathtubs and toilets. Millard wrote, "Hello again, we had a lot of trouble finding oxalic acid in this part of the world, so we cleaned our crystals with a compound called 'iron out' which is a bisulfate cleaner sold at Home Depot. It is normally used to remove iron stains from porcelain or water softeners, and is fairly cheap- about \$3.90 for 18 oz. of powder. It was quick and did a very good job. We used about 3 TBS per cup of water and cleaned a few points at a time. Don't know

## Florida - Chapters

# "Updates & Open Forum"

### Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Greetings Alumni Members, Jewelry Professionals, and Gem Aficionados

Mark your calendars! Join us and participate in this event, hear what trends and news that will include:

- □ □ □ □ GIA's International Gemological Symposium,
- □ □ □ □ JCK Las Vegas shows.
- □ □ □ □ We will also have a hands on opportunity to view Lead-Filled or composite Rubies. They have become a problem in the Jewelry industry because they have been sold at greatly inflated values and these gems are not durable and can be easily damaged by processes that would not damage untreated rubies.
- □ □ □ □ Discuss gemological and mineral news;

Your involvement supports the growth of our chapter.

Come on down, have dinner and some fantastic Gem FUN!

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome (Meet & Greet)
2. Open discussion of instruments recommended for field identification of gems and minerals. Instruments will be available for hands on demonstration.
3. Discussion of Lead Glass-Filled and Composite Rubies. A microscope and examples will be available to help you identify them in your business.
4. JCK Las Vegas update.
5. GIA International Gemological Symposium and Denver Gem & Mineral Show update.
6. Open Forum Discussion/Updates/Show & Tell
7. Schedule next meeting & confirm agenda items
8. Close meeting

#### Florida Chapter Officers

##### Central Florida

**President**  
Roy Peters

**Secretary**  
Open

**Treasurer**  
Open

##### Atlantic Coast

**President**  
Dr Donald W. Kiesel  
AJP, GD, GCS,

**Secretary**  
Open

**Treasurer**  
Open

#### **Consider getting more involved in your chapter!**

The board is always looking for future leaders to help support the chapter in our leadership roles. Speak to an officer for more information.

## Event Details

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, September 21, 2011
<b>Time</b>	6:30 p.m. Networking and Dinner. 7 p.m. Professional Development Meeting begins
<b>Venue</b>	<b>DeBary Country Club</b> , 300 Plantation Club Dr, DeBary, FL 32713
<b>Menu</b>	You will be able to order off the bar menu. When you RSVP please indicate if you will be eating at the country club. You do not have to eat. Estimated cost less than \$20
<b>RSVP</b>	Roy Peters <a href="tel:3867745919">386 774-5919</a> or Dr Donald Kiesel <a href="tel:3864397407">386 439-7407</a>

### *All Chapter Events: member participation is encouraged:*

- Please indicate upon RSVP you plan to bring the instruments you use for field gem or mineral identification.

### *Presentations (Power Point):*

- If monitor or projector becomes available

### *Other):*

- Member participation encouraged, but must be approved in agenda  
- Contact a chapter leader to get involved

## Chapter News

### *Call for action - nominate for Alumni Chapter Awards, today!*

Annually, GIA asks alumni to participate in a global program that recognizes alumni members and their chapters for outstanding leadership and achievement in the previous 12 months. As a qualified alumnus, exercise your right to vote. The Alumni Association has sent a nomination request via email, all award criteria and nomination submission is done online.

## Don't miss out on any alumni news!

Update your alumni contact information  
[Register online](#)

### Benefits available to all Alumni

Alumni logo's

Alumni Online Directory

MyAlumni online portal page  
(password required)

Alumni  
Global News & Events  
[Facebook Page](#)

....and more!

**Stay Connected**  
**Stay Informed**

