



**Miami Mineralogical
and
Lapidary Guild**



Where South Florida Really Rocks!

THE GEODE – The MMLG Monthly Newsletter

Volume 65, Number 4

(Numbering system skips pandemic period)

November 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Yes, we're coming back! It's been a long pandemic period, but now we're restarting our Club activities.

First up – our semi-annual Fall Show. Please see full details on page 3.

Next – some of our educational skills programs have continued during the pandemic (with full CDC protocols in effect) and are in progress right now. Specifically, we're talking about our Cabochon Workshop and Beading Workgroup. Please see full details on page 7.

We plan to resume our monthly meetings after the first of the year - details in the December newsletter.

Our Club hasn't gone on any field trips in more than a decade – we're currently working on organizing two separate day trips after the first of the year.

We've got even more plans for expanded activities, but they all depend on the involvement of **YOU**, our members. For that involvement to happen, membership needs to be renewed - which brings us to the below section:

The membership year starts every January 1. (If you join or renew now, you will be covered for the remaining two months of 2021, as well as all of 2022.) Single membership is \$15.00 per year; Family membership is \$20.00 per year.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BECOMING A MEMBER?

- participation at all club activities
- discounts on publications and outside educational activities
- access to club library, displays, and collections
- accidental injury insurance on field trips and at club activities
- access to club sponsored classes and workshops
- special interest groups within the club
- access to club swaps, raffles, auctions, and vendor activities
- voting rights at club elections, meetings, and referendums
- co-ordination with other clubs, groups, or associations

On the following page (page 2), is our member information form. We ask you to print it out, fill it out, and follow the instructions regarding payment and mailing. The form is designed to respect your privacy, but also to give us information about what you would like to get out of your membership. We request this of new members, but also long-standing members – so that we can update our strategic plan for being relevant **to you** in the 21st century.

If you prefer not to join or renew by mail, you may do so in person at the Fall Show on Dec 4 & 5.



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Member Information Form

Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Today's Date _____

Email Address: _____ Phone (Optional): _____

Mailing Address (Optional): _____

No identifying member information will ever be shared or published.

Areas of interest – please check all that apply:

- collecting minerals
- collecting gemstones
- collecting jewelry
- collecting fossils
- rockhounding
- lapidary crafts (making jewelry and accesories – includes beading)
- Geological Sciences
- educational opportunities – includes lectures, presentations, field trips, workshops, mentoring, reference library access
- other interests – please specify _____

Annual Dues are payable on January 1st of each year. Please submit payment with this form.

- Individual - \$15.00
- Family - \$20.00

Annual dues payments should be mailed to:

Dianne Mielke, Treasurer
MMLG
2434 Swanson Avenue
Miami, FL 33133

Please make check payable to **MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD** - the bank will not accept checks made out to MMLG. Thank you.

FALL SHOW DEC 4 & 5

The MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD (MMLG) is holding a Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show on December 4th and 5th from 10 AM to 5 PM at EVELYN GREER PARK, 8200 SW 124 Street in the Village of Pinecrest (just south of Miami, FL) – one block off US 1 with plenty of free parking.

Admission is \$6 – children under 12 admitted free (with paid adult admission).

There will be exhibits, displays, demonstrations, raffles, and vendors showcasing mineral & fossil specimens, gemstones, fine jewelry, and artisan-crafted collectibles. Children's activities include jewelry-making sessions, surprise grab-bags, and scavenger hunts..

Some photos from previous shows



University of Miami Geology Exhibit



Artisan displaying hand-crafted Cabochons



Specimen Vendor



Children's Table



Artisan Jewelry Vendor

Because you have been a member (or subscribe to our email list), we include on the next page (page 4) a printable discount coupon flyer. It is a "3-up" page – yielding three separate flyer copies. Simply print out just that page and then use scissors to cut the two faint dotted lines between the three sections.

We look forward to seeing you at the Show.



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semi-annual

GEM & MINERAL SHOW *(We've got jewelry & fossils too!)*

Gems – Minerals – Exhibits - Raffles
Artisan Jewelry – Children's Activities

Sat & Sun **Dec 4 & 5**

Sat - 10 AM to 6 PM
Sun - 10 AM to 5 PM

at

Evelyn Greer Park

in Pinecrest - free parking
8200 SW 124 Street – one block off US1

Admission: \$6

Half price with this flyer!

(children under 12 free with paid adult)

Go to our website for complete information,
including a map and directions
www.miamigemandmineral.com



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Even in this hyper-digital age of social media, some folks still like to absorb scholarly information as plain text, often simply printed out as black-and-white hard copy. The following is an educational article written by Adam Lawrence, our Show Chairman and Club Trustee.

What's in a (Mineral) Name?

As of September 2021, the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) of the International Mineralogical Association recognizes 5,739 different mineral species. Thirty or more new mineral species are recognized by the CNMNC each year. The need to assign a unique name to each new species in this growing list – a task entrusted to the one who discovers the mineral but subject to the approval of the CNMNC -- so that mineralogists can share a common language, has created a bewildering variety of names that range from the descriptive to the whimsical.

Many if not most newly-described minerals -- which can be loosely defined as minerals recognized by the CNMNC and its predecessors between the mid-nineteen hundreds and the present -- are complex chemical substances found in tiny amounts in only one or two geographic locations. Most of the less complex, more readily identifiable minerals, bearing simple names and formulas, had already been discovered and named by the mid-twentieth century. The widespread, simple silver sulfide Acanthite (Ag_2S), to take one of hundreds of possible examples, was identified in 1855. On the other hand, Labyrinthite -- named for its complex composition and found in tiny amounts in one location on Russia's Kola Peninsula – was first identified in 2002.

Besides having complicated formulas, many recently-identified minerals also have complex chemical names. The CNMNC, undoubtedly in response, has adopted an abbreviation system that assigns all listed minerals a unique, user-friendly identifier. This convention is particularly useful for minerals whose names consist of a string of chemical subgroups. Thus, Potassic-magnesian-fluoro-arfvedsonite (CNMNC 2012) can now be definitively identified by the simple acronym "Pmfarf."

The abbreviation system also makes it easier to reference minerals with proper names that are challenging to some Western ears. For example, the complex sodium magnesium phosphate Bakhchisaraitsevite (after the Russian crystallographer; CNMNC 2000), is now denoted by the letters "Bkc." The platinum-group mineral, Lukkulaivaraite (after the type locality; CNMNC 2013), is a manageable "Lkk," and the silver-zinc-antimony compound Rozhdestvenskayaite (a Russian mineralogist, again; CNMNC 2019), can be identified simply as "Roz-Zn."

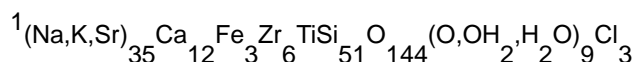
The abbreviation convention also applies, perhaps less usefully, to common minerals. Thus the mineral sulfur, well-known from antiquity, was awarded a simple and predictable "S," while Ice – yes, Ice is a CNMNC-listed mineral because it crystallizes in the hexagonal system (think snowflakes) -- was officially abbreviated to, well, "Ice."

The vast majority of names on the CNMNC list are derived from the constituent chemical components of the mineral, the geographic locality where, or near where, the type specimen was found, the named mine or quarry where it was found, and the first or last name, or both, of the person who discovered the mineral, or of a famous person who might have had no connection to the mineral. It's quite an honor in the mineralogy community to discover a new mineral and have it named after you. Among those so honored is Dr. Stephen Haggerty, a professor at FIU and an authority on diamonds. The type locality for Haggertyite, a rare titanate, is the Crater of Diamonds State Park, Arkansas.

continued from previous page –

Many other CNMNC mineral names do not fit into any of the aforementioned categories. There's Eveite ($\text{Mn}_2(\text{AsO}_4)(\text{OH})$), after the gal in Genesis, so named because it is isostructural with Adamite ($\text{Zn}_2(\text{AsO}_4)(\text{OH})$) (after the mineralogist not the Bible guy); Ruffite after the discoverer's cat "Rruff"; Irginite because the discoverer simply liked the sound; and Armacolite after astronauts *Armstrong*, *Aldrin* and *Collins*. For anyone in need of a Yiddish epithet there's Putzite. For fans of homophones there's Fassinaite; and for those who find humor in words that sound mildly salacious there's Formicaite and Fukalite.

Who among the sober scientists on CNMNC ever thought their list could be a source of such innocent amusement?



² E.g., Potassic-magnesio-fluoro-arfvedsonite; Bariopharmacosiderite; Mangano-mangani-ungarettite; Hydroxymanganopyrochlore.

³ E.g., Baghdadite; Brazilianite; Coloradoite; Minasgeraisite; Laplandite. Included in this group are 6 minerals whose type location is the Moon, e.g., Tranquillityite, and 106 minerals isolated from meteorites, including Moissanite: Discovered in the Canyon Diablo, Arizona, meteor crater. Moissanite had been synthesized but had not previously been found in nature.

⁴ E.g., Bluelizardite; Bluestreakite; Geenlizardite; Packratite; Tiptopite, and Eureka Dumpite.

⁵ Among the enormous number of minerals named after their discoverers the 'Roberts' are particularly well-represented: Bobcookite; Bobfergusonite; Bobfinchite; Bobjonesite; Bobkingite; Bobshannonite and Bobtraillite; as are the 'Johns': Johnbaumite; Johnnesite; Johnkoivulaite; Johnsenite; Johnsomervilleite; Johntomaite; and Johnwalkite.

⁶ E.g., Goethite; Davinciite; Mozartite.

⁷ With apologies to its discoverer, the Austrian mineralogist Dr. Hubert Putz.

Hey, we need some help - at our SHOW the first weekend of December. We need volunteers to help out with all the Club support activities including working with the Children's Table, staffing the Admission Table, working the Club specimen table, monitoring the vendor tables, and assisting with Show set-up and take down. For more info or to volunteer, contact Adam Lawrence at lawrdans@gmail.com

The GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES will put on its 54th annual show on Saturday and Sunday November 20 & 21 at the South Florida Fairgrounds EXPO CENTER, 9067 Southern Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33411 (Sat 9 AM to 6 PM / Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM) - full details and info at <http://www.southfloridafair.com/events>

Yes, our new lapidary workshop is fully-equipped and up-and-running - for our dues-paid members. Please note – that last phrase is most important: **for dues-paid members**. Why? Because our \$2 million comprehensive personal injury and property damage insurance coverage is in force only for our paid-up members. (Single membership is \$15 per year, family \$20.) Not sure if you're paid up? Email us at "webguy@mmlg-inc.org" and we'll let you know.

All members wishing to use the equipment will go through a basic skills and safety session (regardless of previous experience level) before performing individual work with it. Because our Workshop Co-ordinator has limited hours of availability, all sessions will be scheduled by appointment only.

If interested, please leave your name and number at our Club voicemail **305.460.2244**, and we will connect you with the Workshop Co-ordinator.

There is no fee to use our MMLG workshop - it's a membership benefit, and we will provide the initial material to be worked during the basic skills session.

We look forward to a successful workshop program!



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Hours: 12 Noon to 6 p.m. Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri.
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat., Closed Sun. & Mon.

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