



## Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild



*Where South Florida Really Rocks!*

### **THE GEODE – The MMLG Monthly Newsletter**

Volume 66, Number 6

(Numbering system skips pandemic period)

September 2022

Hello Folks! We hope that you are coping well with our alternating tropical heat wave and monsoon rain weather pattern. We have a number of announcements in this edition of the newsletter:

- We are resuming our regular monthly meetings, starting this month. That first meeting will take place on SUNDAY September 25 at 1 PM at the BETTER FAMILIES THROUGH TAE KWON DO ACADEMY located at 6723 SW 81st St. Miami, FL 33143, just behind THE BIG CHEESE, a South Dade dining landmark. It's just half-a-block off the intersection of SW 67 Ave and US 1. As always, there will be announcements, meet-and-greet, stone-of-the-month, refreshments, and a special door prize - a bound copy of the AMFED-produced book, LEWIS & CLARK: ROCKHOONDING ON THE WAY TO THE PACIFIC. We're also resuming our most popular traditional meeting activity – the Club Raffle – featuring specimens, gemstones, educational materials, and artisan jewelry (always fabulous values). The educational presentation will be about a gem phenomenon that most of us have never heard of – Carved and Faceted Pearls. Please join us.
- Reiterating our previous announcement, our Fall GEM & MINERAL SHOW will take place Saturday and Sunday December 3 & 4 at Evelyn Greer Park in Pinecrest. Please mark your calendars. We'll publish full details in our November newsletter.
- The next Tri-county Picnic will be on Sunday October 23 from 10 AM to 3 PM at TY Park (Topeekeegee Yugnee Park), located at 3300 North Park Road in Hollywood. Take I-95 to the Sheridan Street exit – heading west (over the Turnpike), making a right turn on North Park Road. Entry fee is \$1.50 per person. Our picnic will be at Pavilion #9. At this time, our understanding is that it will be a resumption of the traditional format – potluck food and refreshments, followed by a raffle of donated items, and the BINGO with donated prizes. As well, members of any of the three clubs may set up tables to swap-and-sell specimens, jewelry, and/or hobby-related equipment.
- There has been a prestigious honor bestowed upon one of our own members: our club president, John Speier. He was unanimously selected by the Board of EFMLS (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies) to serve as the Federation's ASSISTANT TREASURER. Congratulations John!
- Each time we have one of our semi-annual SHOWS, we feature a raffle at the Admission Table. We're sad to say that each time, one or two winners are not able to claim their prizes because there is some type of error in the contact info on the drawing ticket. So, referring to this past SHOW in May, if JEN or ROBYN could email us at [webguy@mmlg-inc.org](mailto:webguy@mmlg-inc.org) with her ticket number, we can make arrangements to get these prizes to their respective winners. Thanks.

- Even though our large gathering activities were suspended during the pandemic, some of our smaller activities continued. Our Beading Workshop (limited to 3 or 4 participants at a time) has met continuously on a monthly basis – producing an array of beautiful creations. Our Lapidary Workshop has been and continues to be available to our members (on an appointment basis) at no cost to members. The Workshop boasts two cabbing machines, a trim saw, and a Dremel tool station. Club members interested in participating with either resource should call our club voicemail at 305.460.2244. We'll see that the right person gets back to you.

- The life blood of any non-profit organization is its cadre of volunteers. Our club (MMLG) has suffered some “hemorrhagic loss” during this past extended pandemic. A glance at our list of Officers and Trustees shows that we have fewer and fewer members handling the same undiminished work load of responsibilities. Some of our member volunteers are serving in double, triple, even quadruple capacities – and that is not a positive indicator for the long term health of our organization. We need your help to share the work load. Most roles don't require special skills or major time commitment – helping to set up for meetings, bringing refreshments, selling raffle tickets, helping with the shows, distributing event flyers. Other roles will need unique attributes – editing a newsletter, managing a website, monitoring the club's voicemail messages, creating educational presentations. Others involve the sensitivities and responsibilities of organizational skills. If you are at all able to respond to the club's needs, please speak to one of our current volunteers at the meetings or call us at 305.460.2244 or email us at [webguy@mmlg-inc.org](mailto:webguy@mmlg-inc.org). Additionally, we're planning to resume the annual election of Officers and Trustees at our November monthly meeting, and we welcome the participation of all individuals with a desire to serve in “management”.

2022 MMLG Officers and Board of Trustees

**Officers**

President - John Speier  
Vice President – Sandy Mielke  
Secretary/Treasurer - Dianne Mielke

**Board Trustees to December 2022**

Adam Lawrence  
LoRain Dudley

**Board Trustees to December 2023**

David Lubow  
Lauren Kairalla  
Bernice Granick

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Miami, Florida



## North Carolina's Spectacular Gem Superstar (a reprint of a blog by retired geologist Ed Speer)



This blog celebrates the remarkable natural **emerald gemstones** found in North Carolina. Did you know that North Carolina is the only state in the US that has a natural emerald deposit? In fact, we are very fortunate to host several emerald deposits, one of which is North America's most famous emerald locality! Remarkably, each emerald deposit has a uniquely separate geological history, making each one even more intriguing.

The photo on the left above is of North America's largest emerald crystal - 1,869 carat emerald on dolomite and muscovite. Found in 2003 by James K. (Jamie) Hill, Jr., President of **North America Emerald Mines**, Inc. at the NAEM mine in the Hiddenite District, Alexander Co, NC. The specimen is considered by some to also be the finest mineral specimen ever found in North America! It currently resides in the Houston Museum of Natural Science collection, Houston, Texas. Valued at more than \$3 million US. Original photo by Harold & Erica Van Pelt.

The two pieces in the center photo are the same stone (rough and cut) which was unearthed in 2009 by Terry Ledford who found the roughly 2-inch-square chunk (310 carats) on the Wren Adams property in the rural community of Hiddenite about 50 miles Northwest of Charlotte. Gem experts say the emerald, dubbed the Carolina Emperor, is the fourth largest ever discovered in North America. The finished faceted stone (64.83 cts) reportedly sold at auction for \$1.65M, it is currently housed in the Nature Research Center in the new wing of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC.

The photo on the right shows Jamie Hill holding North America's 6<sup>th</sup> largest crystal (1400 cts) moments after discovery in the NAEM pit. The crystal was recovered from the highly weathered cavity visible on the right side of the photo and is covered by an original thin film of black Fe/Mn oxides.

Jamie Hill has been extracting gem quality emeralds from his NAEM site for more than 25 years. He found this spectacular crystal there on September 16, 2005 in a small open cavity in a quartz vein. Calcite and muscovite crystals line the walls of the cavity, while massive cryptocrystalline white quartz occupies the top portion of the quartz vein.



Approx. 15 ct emerald crystal with natural pyramidal end termination. Late-stage overgrown by white platy calcite crystals. Found August 8, 2008 by Jamie Hill at the NAEM mine.

Approx. 10.5 ct emerald crystal with late-stage calcite overgrowth. Both ends of the emerald crystal are broken off and missing. Found February 12, 2007 by Jamie Hill at the NAEM mine.



Dark green emerald crystals (approx. 160 cts total) with late-stage quartz overgrowths. Called The Twins, the faceted set of two 4.5 ct gems sold for \$17,000 per carat! Found January 12, 2002 by Jamie Hill at the NAEM mine.

Faceted stones in this Emerald Necklace and Ear Rings set. The larger gem is approximately 17 carats (fourth largest North America faceted emerald). All emeralds are from the NAEM mine site at Hiddenite, NC.

