



## **Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild**



**Where South Florida Really Rocks!**

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

Volume 66, Number 3 (Numbering system skips pandemic period)

March/April 2022

### ***We are resuming activities slowly and cautiously***

The lingering effects of the pandemic are affecting our members in different ways. Some folks are ready to jump right in and quickly resume previous “normal” conduct. Others are more cautious about what the new “normal” will be. Mutual respect suggests the resumption of Guild activities should be measured and controlled. We’re moving ahead with this approach to our in-person activities:

#### **Tri-county Picnic Scheduled for April 24**

Our first effort in moving toward “re-normalization” will be the Tri-county Picnic on Sunday April 24, from 10 AM to 3 PM, at TY Park in Hollywood. Not everyone is comfortable jumping straight back to doing things as done previously. Instead of holding a traditional “pot luck” event with everyone bringing food and beverages to share, a more conservative approach is for each individual or family to bring its own respective food and beverages, although the Clubs will provide coffee and water. Anyone desiring to bring food or other beverages to share should feel free to do so – keeping in mind that portions which are individually wrapped or containered offer greatest safety.

Attendees are free to bring and set up swap/sell tables, but the three clubs ask a donation of minimum \$10 value specimen or hobby-related item as a raffle/bingo prize for each table. Any table set ups should take place prior to 10 AM. As we’ve done in the past, there will be bingo and a raffle with prizes donated by attendees.

The clubs want to try something new at this picnic: *bring a bag/get a bag*. Attendees are encouraged to bring a specimen or hobby-related item (\$10 minimum value) in an opaque “grab bag”. All bags will be put into a container, and each participant will have the opportunity to “grab a bag” – for each one that they’ve brought. Post “bag-grabbing” - participants may trade or sell items as desired. It’s a new idea. It may turn out to be great fun!

TY (Topeekeegee Yugnee) Park is 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.

#### **May 2022 Spring Show**

The MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD (MMLG) is holding a Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show on Saturday and Sunday May 21 & 22 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. Saturday hours are 10 to 6, and Sunday from 10 to 5. 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. The next page has discount coupons. Print and cut on dotted lines to separate.



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

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

# **Sat & Sun May 21 & 22**

**Sat - 10 AM to 6 PM  
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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](http://www.miamigemandmineral.com)



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**Rocks and minerals are not the same – what’s the Difference?**

*Minerals* are defined by geologists as naturally occurring inorganic solids that have a crystalline structure and a specific distinct chemical composition. Think of a rock as a collection of minerals. Most *rocks* contain two or more different minerals. For example, *granite contains quartz, feldspar and biotite mica*. There are some rocks, like marble, that contain only one mineral.

There are three different categories of rocks. *Igneous* rocks form when liquid rock cools and hardens. *Metamorphic* rocks form when older rocks are changed by very, very high heat and pressure. *Sedimentary* rocks are formed when wind or water transports older rocks from one place to another and then deposits them.

Find a piece of granite and look at it closely with a hand lens. What do you see? You will see small grains of pink feldspar, gray grains of quartz and tiny black flakes of biotite mica. Sometimes, if the granite cooled slowly enough, real crystals with faces will form.

Now, look at a piece of limestone. What do you see? It will be hard to see anything but gray limestone. Geologists take pieces of limestone (and other rocks) and slice them so thin that light can shine through the slice. Under a microscope you will then be able to see the grains of calcite that make up the limestone.

Here is a list of rocks. Using a good rock and mineral handbook or the internet, make a list of the minerals found in each rock:

**Igneous Rocks**

- Basalt \_\_\_\_\_
- Granite \_\_\_\_\_
- Syenite \_\_\_\_\_
- Gabbro \_\_\_\_\_

**Metamorphic Rocks**

- Marble \_\_\_\_\_
- Gneiss \_\_\_\_\_
- Serpentine \_\_\_\_\_
- Quartzite \_\_\_\_\_
- Schist \_\_\_\_\_

**Sedimentary Rocks**

- Sandstone \_\_\_\_\_
- Shale \_\_\_\_\_
- Limestone \_\_\_\_\_
- Conglomerate (this is a little bit of a trick question) \_\_\_\_\_

## What is a “Successful” Mineral Collector? By Darryl Powell

Many years ago I had the opportunity and thrill to visit Mr. Martin Zinn at his home in Colorado. Marty Zinn is known as having built one of the best mineral collections in America. He had an eye for the best specimens. In his home, he created a special display room where his mineral treasures were carefully displayed for people to enjoy. Walking into his mineral room was a “WOW!” experience. I didn’t know where to look first. I was looking at some of the best mineral specimens ever recovered. The colors, forms, sizes, combinations...it was a very special experience.

And then I thought of my own specimens. My first thought was that, by comparison to his collection, I only had a bunch of mineral scraps. To me, Mr. Zinn was who and what a successful mineral collector should be: excellent specimens displayed in the best of cabinets with perfect lighting. Mr. Zinn had worked hard and had earned the money he needed to build up this museum-quality mineral collection. Does this mean that a “successful” mineral collector has to have a lot of money? What does it mean to be “successful” as a mineral collector?

What is success? Some people say having the best, most expensive mineral specimens. Some say having a lot of mineral specimens. Others would say finding their own specimens in the field. Others would say finding a really great specimen at a really low price. (Who knows? It just may happen some day!)

What makes you happy?

Here’s one that may surprise you: Success in mineral collecting is making good friends. Through the years of being part of mineral clubs, I have met a lot of really wonderful people. They are fun, really smart, generous and willing to share their wisdom. In the process we all added some really great specimens to our collections. But the friendships are much more important than the specimens. The wonderful people met along the way have made mineral collecting successful to me.

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***We hope that you enjoy a safe Easter and Passover!***