



**Miami Mineralogical
and
Lapidary Guild**



Where South Florida Really Rocks!

THE GEODE – The MMLG Monthly Newsletter

Volume 67, Number 2

February 2023

Our **January Meeting** will take place on **February 26 at 1pm** 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.

Besides our meeting and educational presentation there will be raffles, refreshments, and door prizes

LOOKING for members to create an ACTION Committee to come up with ideas to recruit and involve current and new members. If interested please contact Suzanne sbanas09@yahoo.com



This month's newsletter raffle is 2 small slabs of Malachite from the Congo.

1) 1 7/8" x 1 1/2" 2) 2" x 1"

To be entered into the raffle please response to this email by the meeting date.



**The Winner of the
January
newsletter raffle is
Adam Shedroff
CONGRADULATIONS**



Where to Rockhound in Florida part 1

Some of the best places to rockhound in Florida include oceans, rivers, and other waterways. Many public and private lands are open to rockhounds with the right permits and/or permissions. Here are examples of what you might find at certain locations:



Figure 2 Agatized Coral, the official state gem, at Ruck's Pit



Figure 1 Fossils and other minerals in Peace River



Figure 2 Shark teeth and other fossils at Venice Beach

The Sunshine State is rich in rocks, minerals, and fossils – making it a rockhound's dream. Keep reading to find enhanced lists and more specific details on rockhounding locations and what can be found where.

Florida City	Site/Location in Florida
Venice	Venice Beach, Caspersen, Venice Fishing Pier
Dunedin	Honeymoon Island (coral agates can be collected for free in the parking area)
Fort Drum	Ruck's Pit at Fort Drum Crystal Mine
Tampa Bay	Ballast Point Area OR Tampa Member of the Arcadia Formation
New Port Richey	Green Key Beach, Pasco County
Tarpon Springs	Anclote River, Pinellas County
Gardner	Boat Ramp; Charlie Creek
Suwanee	Runs across northwestern Florida

A permit is not required to rockhound on privately owned land, but permission is required. This extends to most fossils, minerals, rocks – and even human artifacts, in many cases. *However, human burial sites should remain undisturbed.* Always check with your local **Bureau of Land Management** office before embarking on a rockhounding adventure in any of these regions, as some specific areas may be off-limits. They will be able to tell you whether or not any specific region is not open to digging.

Public Lands Rights to your finds become an issue when it comes to public lands, although they may be a great place to dig. It all boils down to getting permission from the property holders in advance – like private properties. If you take something from an area without permission, there will likely be consequences, ranging from a warning to a heavy fine.

Although there are some legal hoops to jump through in order to collect in certain areas, it is worthwhile to check first and get a permit (it's really inexpensive).

You can learn more about the requirements to obtain a fossil permit and how to apply on the Florida Museum of Natural History website. (<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/amateur-collector/fossil-permit/>) You can apply for the permit using the link. A permit is needed to collect all vertebrate fossils in Florida, excluding the collection of shark teeth.

Yes, there are many places to collect these tiny treasures, there are a few places that are almost always **off-limits to rockhounding in Florida**, and just about anywhere else.

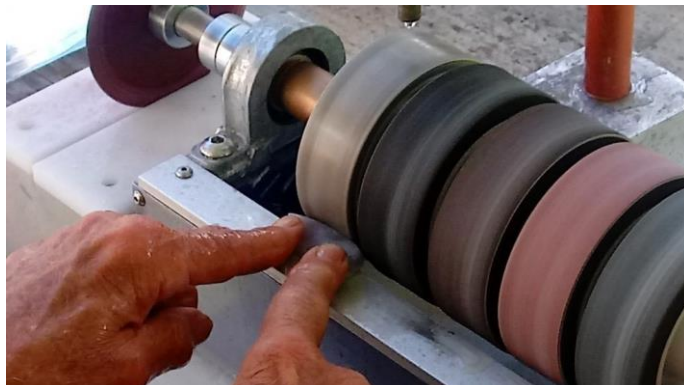
These include:

- * National Parks
- * National Monuments
- * National Wildlife Refuges
- * Florida State Parks



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. (And we're periodically receiving new equipment from the estates of former members who are no longer with us.) Club members who would like to use any of our equipment or just use bench space for their own lapidary projects should call our club voicemail at 305.460.2244. We'll see that the right person gets back to you.

Our Beading Workshop (limited to 3 or 4 participants at a time) has met continuously on a twice-a-month basis – producing an array of beautiful creations



WE'RE TRYING NOT TO SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD... (Ah, sadly – most of you younger folks have little acquaintance with the unique characteristics of *vinyl* audio!)

The life blood of any non-profit organization is its cadre of volunteers.

Our club (MMLG) has 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 ***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 email us at webguy@mmlg-inc.org. Additionally, we're resuming our annual election of Officers and Trustees at our November meeting, and we encourage the participation of all folks with a desire to serve in addressing our Club's challenges.

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

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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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