



Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild



Where South Florida Really Rocks!

THE GEODE – The MMLG Monthly Newsletter

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Late-breaking news: The PANDEMIC continues!

No matter how anyone feels about masks, social distancing, or vaccinations – no-one can deny the continuation of the COVID pandemic. Michael Osterholm, the Chief Epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota, has warned the country that the next three to eight weeks could bring us what he calls “a viral blizzard” of the OMICRON variant.

We here at MMLG are fully aware of our safety responsibilities for all our members. Consequently, we are pausing all our in-person activities until the danger of that dreaded “blizzard” passes. One again, we ask your patience and co-operation in waiting for the time that it is safe to gather together again.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Not all MMLG members may be aware that, during the PANDEMIC, our regional umbrella organization (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies) has undergone tumultuous political conflict – not unlike our Nation. The good news is: the conflict is over, and the governing administration is working to bring order out of chaos. The following is a message from Ellery Borow, the current President -----

There is a great deal of activity in the Eastern Federation with catching up on the business of the Federation. We have an Insurance Committee doing research, a newsletter Editor just finishing the latest edition, a Nominating Committee getting into high gear, an audit of the books being planned, as well as updating and streamlining of the website being discussed, maintaining a bevy of volunteers to address member club questions and helping with all the committee work.



There is more. A few weeks ago, a friend associated with the AFMS sent a photograph to me as a reminder of what all this is about. The photograph depicted an experienced, older lapidary craftsman demonstrating work on a stone grinding and polishing machine. Around him was a small group of youngsters watching the work with rapt attention to what he was doing. The image reminded me what all this business is about - learning, sharing, teaching and the joys and enthusiasm with all three.

Whether it is teaching a lapidary class, watching a club program, attending a club field trip where attendees show one another their treasures and help identify the finds, so much of this hobby is about helping one another, showing kindness, and sharing one's joys. In other words - making our shared hobby be the best it can be.

In this season of holidays please keep in mind not just the jewelry making, specimens, fossils, and lapidary projects, but also the incredible people who share their passions, knowledge and friendship that gives our hobby its vibrance, its power, its enjoyment.

- continuing President Borow's message -

"Communications" are being revised so that member clubs, and the general public can directly contact all EFMLS executive officers, regional officers, and committees - no middlemen, no delays, no distraction. This will enable transparency, efficiency and speed with the two-way communication needed in a modern organization.

The Eastern Federation is an all-volunteer organization with real people, real lives, real jobs, and real schedules so communication should be a mix of EFMLS e-mail addresses, personal e-mail addresses and, yes, phone numbers, to make use of the best, most efficient means of reaching one another.

In editions of the EFMLS News there will be revised listings of officers and committees and their direct contact information. Clubs will be encouraged to communicate directly with whoever they need to reach. Have a safety question - contact the safety committee chair. Have a question for the EFMLS News Editor - contact the Editor directly. Have a question for the President - contact the President directly. Specific to club communications will come from the Federation Secretary, from the Editor in the EFMLS News, from the Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee, or Webmaster. The goal is that Communication will be transparent, efficient and accurate.

Please check and take advantage of the resources of the EFMLS. The greatest resource of the Federation is the knowledge base and helpfulness of its member clubs and volunteers. Again, the Federation is an assembly of almost 100 clubs - our communicating with one another is what makes it work. The better the communication, the better it works to benefit us all.

Please check the EFMLS News, website, and look for detailed e-mailings for new happenings.

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We wish you a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year!