



# NEWSLETTER

## A Word from the President:

Welcome to Guest and New members we hope you enjoyed the meeting and the fun that followed.

What a wonderful year 2015 JGMS has had. Recap. For the first time in the club's history 55 yrs., we have a HOME to call our own. Lots of hard work from so many dedicated members. JGMS has a Beautiful Place to work and play.

Thanks to all who made this possible. Looking forward to more work and FUN in 2016.

Special Thanks to All the Chairpersons and Board of Directors.

The Christmas Party was a very good time. Thanks to Miss Jackie Dolan and Debbie Ritter for the lovely decorations. We all had an enjoyable evening.

Hoping you all have a FUN filled and prosperous New Year 2016.

President Craig Hamilton

## COPS

Community Outreach Program

I was invited to a Science Day at Pine Forrest Elementary School. I had one large class in the morning and 4 individual classes in the afternoon. In all about 200 students from the 4th and 5th grades.

p.s. JGMS, has been invited back to the Duval County Elementary School Science Fair in January 2016, at Prime Osborne Center.

Chairman of COPS, Craig Hamilton

## Scholarship Winners 2015

INSTRUCTORS SCHOLARSHIP (William Holland)  
WINNER: Dixie Murphy ALTERNATE: Liz Smith

MEADOWS SCHOLARSHIP (William Holland or Wild Acres)  
WINNER: Kathy Wright ALTERNATE: Bonnie Muranko

PAUL CASTEEL AWARD (William Holland)  
WINNER: Elaine Siano ALTERNATE: Robin Gillespie

40 HOURS SHOP TIME  
WINNER: Karen Merrell ALTERNATE: Jim Cortez



# JGMS Minutes

December 3, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 7:06.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Craig Hamilton, President, welcomed guests and new members. Guests included Sahyna Hint, Luis M., and Lauren Stetter. New members were Lisa Royal, Kim Baggett and John Baggett.

Mr. Tom Linning of the Boy Scouts of America invited JGMS to a meeting of the North Florida Advancement Board of the Boy Scouts. Mr. Linning was present at the meeting.

Dani Bratten moved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. Seconded by Spencer Herring. Motion carried.

Old Business: Chair reports will be published in the newsletter.

James Webb reported on trip to UF museum and the Devil's Millhopper. It was a fun experience for all.

A letter was received from GIA through Denise Chislett thanking JGMS for the GIA meeting held in the JGMS facility.

Craig Hamilton reported that some slabs were missing from box left on the property. He spoke about being honest and being able to store our items here without fear of them being stolen.

Tim Smeggil was presented a plaque from SFMS for 1st place web master. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the AFMS. He also received a certificate.

Holiday Party: Jacque Dolan asked for help in setting up the tables for the party immediately after the meeting tonight.

It was requested that members and guests not leave the meeting and go into the kitchen until the meeting is adjourned.

Craig would like a meeting of those interested in working in the museum.

A quorum was established.

New Business:

Elections were held. The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for 2016.

President: Craig Hamilton (ascending from President elect)

Vice President: Harriet Rose

President Elect: Jason Hamilton

Treasurer: Mari Webb

Secretary: Anne Lanier

Director: Heather Ferman

The call for nominations from the floor resulted in no responses. Dani Bratten moved that the slate be accepted as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Smeggil. Motion carried unanimously.

Craig introduced member Larry Turner. Larry presented a check for \$2,000.00 to go toward the building fund.

Show and Tell items were presented by: Caroline Smith, Bonnie Muranko, Dixie Murphy, Jean Wydra, Blu Brock, Ed Price, E. Mauerman, Jim McAdams, Linda Weinstein and Tamara Bowman.

The program was presented by Ed Price on Mineral Oddities including an amazing crystal from the cave of Swords. The program was well presented and well received.

Anne Acker reported that there will be three (3) days of open workshop, Dec. 21,22,23. You may sign up if you are interested.

Linda Weinstein reported on Social Concerns.

Karen Boger reported on points and awards. The drawings will be done at the Holiday Party.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Lanier, Secretary

## Show-N-Tell



Presented by: Caroline Smith, Bonnie Muranko, Dixie Murphy, Jean Wydra, Blu Brock, Ed Price, E. Mauerman, Jim McAdams, Linda Weinstein and Tamara Bowman.



## December Program

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## Instructor's Corner

Hi. I'm Dani. I became unable to work in 2001, oddly enough, on Tax day. I was a server at the time, one of the jobs I really enjoyed.

I moved to Jacksonville from Atlanta after the Olympics. I did fiberglass and acrylic bathtub repairs there for 10 years. My mother came here with me. She did elderly care for 35-40 years so I had a lot of surrogate grandparents. She has been my biggest influence in this life. She let me experiment with many different things even though most of the time I didn't finish or follow through.

Nevertheless, she encouraged me to explore. I found a book on Chainmaille and bought it, some craft wire, some pliers, and a saw and I started making jump rings. I'm a stickler for the 'hand' in Handmade, so I avoided buying pre-cut rings. She would watch me for long times, probably amazed I had found something that held my attention.

Then, in 2009, I found the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society website. My mother called and talked to Karen Bee, who was Membership Chair at the time, and was very good at it. We went to the next meeting and were greeted by so many very nice and interesting people, I had no choice but to join them. I had found my tribe! I had a beginning Silver class the following week. Jason Hamilton was discussing another Advanced class, the Inlay Bracelet, coming up. I had to have that class! Just so happened that the Cabbing Instructor, Jeff Bee, was there at the time. One of the pre-requisites was a Cabbing class. I turned to Jeff and insisted quietly that I had to have this class before the next Monday. That was the easy part!

The hardest part of all of this is trying to manage the addiction...they don't tell you about that. I found my rock of choice, Obsidian, which is a Volcanic glass that comes in many forms and colors, depending on the minerals around the area it is formed in. My instructors approached me to teach Cabbing because I'm obsessed with it. So now I teach Cabbing, Beginning Silver, Chainmaille, Coin rings, Wire Weaving and many Open Classes also. I have been Education Chair, been on many other Committees, and have won a Scholarship to William Holland Lapidary Arts School in N Ga.

The relationships that have formed within this wonderful group has made my life so much more interesting than it ever could've been. I'm so thankful to have found them and been held so close within by them all. I truly feel my life would be seriously lacking if it were not for these wonderfully accepting group!

So, that's my story in general and if I can answer any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to ask...if I don't know the answer I have a stockpile of friends to refer to till I get it!

Dani (Dannielle) Bratten



## 2016 Save the Date

**Thursday, January 7, 2016:** JGMS Monthly Meeting – 3733 Crown Point Road  
**Class signup @ 6:00 pm** Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 pm

### "Lost and Found"

A bracelet was found at the shop after the Christmas party.  
Call Craig Hamilton @ 904.994.4729 for more information  
He will hold it till someone calls.

# A Faceters Night Before Christmas

by Tom Mitchell

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the workshop  
Not a crystal was stirring, not even a brass dop.  
Designs were all strewn on my bench everywhere,  
In hopes that I'd find the best cut for a Pear.

The rough stones were nestled all snug in their trays,  
While planning their future would take many days.  
And me with my visor and in my arm chair,  
I scanned each stone closely to find one with flare.

When out in the workshop there came such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the slab saw I flew in a flash,  
Yanked open the cover to see a stone splash.

The jaws of the vise still held part of the rough.  
So all was not lost. I yet had enough.  
The matrix was gone from most of the stone,  
But I could recover the rest without moan.

So onto the dop with black wax it went,  
And into the quill for which it was meant,  
Then fixing the angle to cut the first face,  
And setting the index position with haste,

I adjusted the tower and faceting head  
And lowered the quill just above the lap bed  
Then turned on the lap to start its rotation  
And adjusted the light for the best eye location.

On P1, On P2,  
On P3, on girdle,  
Then transfer and alignment,  
The next true big hurdle.

On C1, On C2  
On C3, On Table,  
I cut all the facets for which I was able.  
To the last meet on the crown and pavilion,  
I polished the stone till it shown like a million.

Once it was finished I removed the doped stone,  
And soaked it in solvent where it sat all alone.  
As the stone fell away from the dop and was free,

I grasped with stone holders to admire it with glee.

It sparkled and glimmered and dispersed the light such,  
That it twinkled and glittered with brilliance so much.  
I drew down my visor to view with a grin,  
The glowing return of the light from within.

I measured the stone and weighed it in carats,  
And placed it in a gem jar which listed its merits.  
The gem jar I placed in a case for safe keeping,  
To protect it from damage while I was sleeping.

My work was now finished and now I could rest.  
I'd created a treasure that would shine with the best.  
My satisfaction with what I had done  
Was all that I needed, for this work was fun.

So I cleaned my machine and the laps I was using,  
And stored them away in a case of my choosing,  
Then cleared my work station and turned off the light,  
***To wish you a Merry Christmas and to all a good night.***