



Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society: Volume 56 No. 1 January 2016

# NEWSLETTER

## A Word from the President:

The Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society is off on another venturous year. 2016 will hold many hours of classroom FUN, Club events and Happenings. Your Board is working very hard to provide many opportunities to both work and have FUN with



friends. All of which would be impossible out YOU. The prospect of serving our community through the Museum, COPS and Open house are numerous. There are not limits to our involvement and exposure to Jacksonville and Northeast Florida. Come Let's have **F U N!**

From the President, Craig Hamilton

## COPS

Community Outreach Program

The next few weeks will see COPS in many different areas.

1. Mandarin Library, Afterschool program,
2. Duval Elementary School Science Fair
3. Boy Scout Leadership Event in Gainesville
4. On Feb. 5th, Jacksonville County Day School.

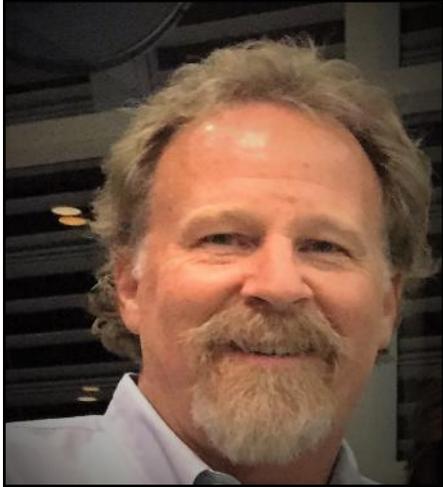
The JGMS is serving our community through Education. This is one of the Clubs commitments.

Respectfully submitted,  
COPS Chairman Craig Hamilton



## NEW MONTHLY ADDITION

### “STONECUTTER'S CORNER”



Mark Jordana, a new member to the club in 2015, has volunteered to provide a brief discussion of a different rock each month for the newsletter during 2016. The rocks selected each month will generally be semi-precious stones from locations around the world and of interest in lapidary work. The goal is to provide some general information about each stone, and hopefully trigger some lively discussion and show-and-tell

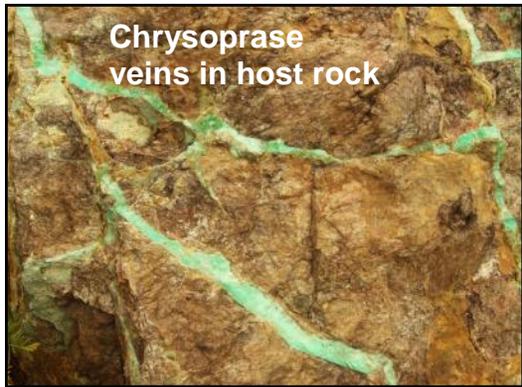
examples during monthly meetings.

Mark is a Florida-licensed Professional Geologist (PG). He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in Geology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the University of South Carolina, respectively, in the early 1980s. He recently retired in 2015 after a 30+ year career as an environmental consultant, where he used his geology background to assess and cleanup soil and groundwater at contaminated properties throughout the US. He began cutting and polishing stones as a hobby about 10 years ago, which has evolved into a small business, *Jordana Stone Design*, which he runs with his wife Gail in St. Augustine, Florida.



## STONECUTTER'S CORNER

### January Stone - Chrysoprase



Chrysoprase is a green variety of chalcedony which has been valued as a gemstone for centuries. The color ranges from apple green to darker green, and can be translucent to nearly opaque. The lighter, apple green coloration combined with color consistency throughout the stone increases desirability and value. While other

green stones owe their color to chromium (such as emeralds) or vanadium, chrysoprase derives its color from the mineralization of nickel oxides. It is derived from the weathering of nickeliferous serpentinites, and is typically found as veins and less frequently as nodules within a host rock.

Chrysoprase is the rarest and most valued stone in the chalcedony group. Similar to other forms of chalcedony (such as agate, jasper, petrified wood, carnelian, etc.), chrysoprase has a hardness of 6.5 to 7.0 on the Mohs hardness scale, and is comprised of cryptocrystalline quartz (silicon dioxide or  $\text{SiO}_2$ ) crystals, which means that it is composed of quartz crystals so fine that individual crystals cannot be discerned even using a microscope (contrast this with the fist-size and larger individual quartz crystals often displayed at mineral shows). Generally, larger crystals cooled and solidified from a melt more slowly, so the cryptocrystalline texture of chalcedony indicates comparatively rapid cooling and solidification. This cryptocrystalline texture results in brilliant finishes on polished stones.

The discovery and use of chalcedony dates to Biblical times. The term *chalcedony* is derived from the name of the ancient Greek town Chalcedon in Asia Minor, which now is the Kadikoy district of Istanbul, Turkey.



Chrysoprase rough  
(bought at JGMS  
Show 2015)

The word *chrysoprase* comes from the Greek word *chrysos* (meaning gold) and *prasinon* (meaning green); hence “green gold.” Beginning around the 14<sup>th</sup> century, chrysoprase was mined in Frankenstein (now Zabkowice) in the Lower Silesia (now Dolnoslaskie) region of Poland. For hundreds of century St. Wenceslaus Chapel in Prague and the 18<sup>th</sup> century San Souci Palace in Potsdam (Germany).

The Polish deposits of chrysoprase are now worked out. Since around 1960, most commercially available chrysoprase has come from Queensland, Australia. Other locations where chrysoprase is mined include Brazil, India, Kazakhstan and Russia (Urals), and Arizona and California in the US. However, typically the best quality chrysoprase comes from Australia. In fact, this chrysoprase is sometimes referred to as “Australian Jade” as fine quality translucent specimens resemble Burmese imperial jade.

In certain cultures and belief systems, chrysoprase is believed to balance and enhance energy, bring acceptance of self and others, encourage fidelity, and draw out talents and stimulate creativity. Regardless of cultural beliefs, chrysoprase is an excellent stone to cut and polish, and is used to produce some of the finest and most beautiful green stone jewelry available.

#### Information Sources

- *Gemstones of the World*, by Walter Schumann (1977), Sterling Publishing Co.
- *Precious and Semiprecious Stones*, by Jaroslav Bauer and Vladimir Bouska (1989), Chartwell Books, Inc.
- *The Crystal Bible*, by Judy Hall (2003), Walking Stick Press.
- Wikipedia and other Websites.

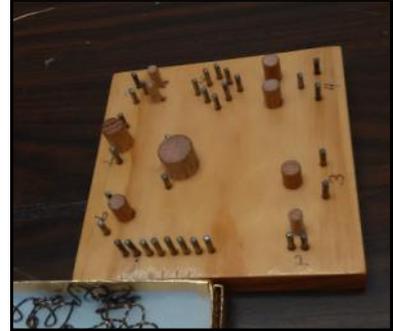


Chrysoprase-  
Pendant &  
earring set

# Show-N-Tell

## Participants

- Bonnie Muranko
- Liz Smith
- Jason Hamilton
- Barbara Stavelly –Schoener
- Carolyn Webb
- Eero Menermen
- Pat Burkholder
- Gary Davis





## Instructor's Corner

Meet *Diana Barreras*

In 2008, I was working for the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology as an ophthalmic technician when one of the supervisors was passing around a tacky yet pricy jewelry catalog.

The supervisor was pressuring the staff pretty hard to “just buy something” so I took the catalog to lunch in hopes of finding something cheap to hopefully make the boss happy.

While looking at this horribly overpriced junk the girl sitting next to me said, “you know you can make that stuff yourself.” I was astonished! “How can it be? These things don't come on a ship from China?” The conversation proceeded and I went to Joann and immediately signed up for the beginning jewelry class. I had the best time while taking that class and left that store beaming at my new skill! I was hopelessly hooked, and before leaving the store I signed up for the next class in the coming month. I came back to work and showed that very simple stringing bracelet off like I was designing for Tiffany!

I could only go so far taking classes at Joann and Michaels and I started looking for more classes to feed my obsession, I found Beadhawk, the now closed bead store at the beach, and began taking classes there. It was from there I went to Bobbi Brown and getting to know the people there eventually lead me to JGMS. After resisting for a while I joined the club in October of 2014 and it was here that I finally found my people! I was so amazed at everything the club was doing. I had to take as many classes as I could as quickly as possible. I am never so happy as when I am taking a new class and learning a new skill.



After about six months I realized I was really good at beading and I loved to teach so I went to the board and got certified to teach beading classes. Things went really well and I while I realized that no one was teaching wire wrapping so I decided to use my wire wrapping skills and I am now offering those classes as well as beading classes.

In between teaching beading classes I was told that the current membership chair was stepping down and I offered my help, so I am also the membership chairperson for the club which is I also something I love doing. Meeting and welcoming all the new members is something I enjoy doing almost as much as learning. Though I must admit learning a new skill is my top enjoyment.

I have had the opportunity to make a lot of new friends with some very interesting skills. I hope everyone enjoys my classes and my company because I plan on staying a member for a very long time!!



## **JGMS Minutes**

January Minutes, General Meeting, January 7, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance said

New members and guests were recognized.

President Craig Hamilton presented and used the gavel he has had for forty-five (45) years.

Craig reminded everybody to sign in and to keep their membership current. Membership fees were discussed.

Tim Smeggil move to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter, second by Larry Turner. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mari Webb. It was a limited report and the entire report will be emailed to those who request it.

### **Old business:**

JGMS monthly committee reports should be sent to Sherry Jones for publication in the newsletter.

Craig thanked Debby Ritter and Jackie Dolan for the holiday decorations.

Heather Ferman distributed cards for the glass meeting to be held in Jacksonville.

Mari Webb discussed vouchers and reimbursements for classes missed. Notice should be given at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance if you cannot come to a class unless it is an emergency situation.

Membership dues were discussed. Diana Barreras and Mari Webb are working to resolve any issues with membership.

Proposed budget for 2016 was discussed. The budget was constructed by the Ways and Means committee consisting of Craig Hamilton, Mari Webb, Harriet Rose, Jason Hamilton, Tom Frame and Russ Fiset. Tom Frame moved that the budget be accepted, second by Karen Boger. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

Field Trips: James Webb

February 6, February 27, 2016.

JGMS is hosting a field trip in March, site to be determined. If you want to know more about field trips, see James Webb and get on his email list.

**Social Concerns:** Linda Weinstein

Linda sent cards to those who have lost family.

**Spring Picnic:**

Picnic is March 26, 2016 at Mandarin Park. 10:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. Club will provide the meat, everyone attending should bring a covered dish. There will be tail gating at the picnic.

Craig introduced the new Board of Directors, officers and chairs. Chairpersons are needed for historian and others. Craig asked for volunteers.

Jason Hamilton presented a check for \$8,000.00 from the show. He also presented a plaque to Craig Hamilton and Darlene Gunsolas for their job as President during the past year.

The program on the January birthstone, garnet, was given by Bill Poland.

**Show and Tell:**

Bonnie Muranko

Liz Smith

Jason Hamilton

Barbara Stalvey

Carolyn Webb

Eero Menermen (sp?)

Pat Burkholder

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

**Save the Date**

**Thursday, February, 4th**

**JGMS Monthly meeting**

3733 Crown Point Road

6:00 pm class sign up

7:00 pm meeting starts

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## **Executive Board Members**

Craig Hamilton	President
Jason Hamilton	President Elect
Harriet Rose	Vice President
Anne Lanier	Secretary
Mari Webb	Treasurer

The Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society of Jacksonville, Florida is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization. It was created to stimulate interests in rocks and minerals by furtherance of the activities of its members, in the earth sciences; to disseminate knowledge, methods and procedures for the collection, identification, classification, cutting, polishing, setting, and mounting of specimens for these activities; and to promote good fellowship, proper ethics and conduct in the relationships of said members with each other and with members of other earth science societies in pursuit of these activities.