

THE ROCK RATTLER

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Moonstone- Birthstone of the month

Presidents Notes - by Del Glasner

I know all of us are getting tired of this stay at home stuff. I would rather be on a field trip or working with a casting class in our shop and getting ready for our show in Aug. Hang on !

Birthstone for June -

If you were born in the month of June, you are lucky enough to have three birthstones to call your own. June is one of only three months (the others are August and December) that has three birthstones, giving you a variety of beautiful birthstone choices.

The June birthstones are pearl, alexandrite and moonstone. With so many attractive options, individuals with June birthdays can have a birthstone that fits their mood or budget, due to the different colors and price points these gems offer.

Saltwater cultured **pearls** are grown in many areas around the world. Akoya cultured pearl farms are primarily found in Japan and China, especially along the southern coasts of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. South Sea cultured pearls are farmed from the northern coast of Australia through Indonesia to the southern coast of Southeast Asia, with large operations in the Philippines as well. The Gambier Islands and the Tuamotu Archipelago, both part of French Polynesia, are two locales where the rich black Tahitian pearls are cultured. China is the dominant source of freshwater cultured pearls.



Moonstone

Moonstone is the best-known gem of the feldspar group of minerals. It is renowned for its adularescence, the light that appears to billow across a gemstone, giving it a special glow. The finest moonstones show a blue sheen against a colorless background. This June birthstone has been associated with both the Roman and Greek lunar deities. Hindu mythology claims that it is

made of solidified moonbeams. Moonstone is often associated with love, passion and fertility; it is believed to bring great luck.

Great designers of the Art Nouveau era (1890s–1910s), such as René Lalique and Louis Comfort Tiffany, featured moonstone in their fine jewelry. The moonstone birthstone came to the forefront again during the 1960s “flower child” movement and with New Age designers of the 1990s.



Alexandrite

Alexandrite is the rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl that changes color in different lighting. Most prized are those alexandrite birthstones that show a vivid green to bluish green in daylight or fluorescent light, and an intense red to purplish red in incandescent light. Major alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia’s Ural Mountains. The gem was named after the young Alexander II (1818–1881), heir apparent to the throne. Alexandrite caught the country’s attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

When certain types of long, thin inclusions are oriented parallel to each other in this June birthstone, they can create another phenomenon, called chatoyancy or the cat’s-eye effect. Few gems are as fascinating – or as stunning – as cat’s-eye alexandrite.

Source – GIA



Next meeting : Our June general **club meeting** at History Center is **canceled** until we are allowed to for our safety.

Member Photos -

Mike Clark



McWilliams



Marze



Glasner



Classroom/Shop: Closed

Shows

As far as I know our show is still scheduled for Aug 15 & 16

Websites that may be of interest:

Moonstone,

<https://www.gemdat.org/gem-2774.html>

<https://www.interweave.com/article/jewelry/learn-the-complete-lapidary-experience-hunt-cut-and-set-gems/>

Color changing gemstones

<https://www.gemrockauctions.com/learn/technical-information-on-gemstones/colour-changing-gemstones>

Caddo Lake Pearls

<https://www.amusingplanet.com/2020/05/the-pearl-rush-of-caddo-lake.html>

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