

THE ROCK RATTLER

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Emerald- Birthstone of the month

Presidents Notes - by Del Glasner

Still hunkering down at home. Still have plenty of Catfish, Squirrels and toilet paper. Hope ya'll Are faring well.

Birthstone for May – Emerald



Trapiche emerald is a rare variety of the gemstone [emerald](#), characterized by a six-pointed radial pattern of ray-like spokes of dark impurities. It is one of several types of trapiche or trapiche-like minerals, which also include trapiche [ruby](#), [sapphire](#), [garnet](#), [chiastolite](#) and [tourmaline](#). The name comes from the Spanish term *trapiche*, a sugar mill, because of the resemblance of the pattern to the spokes of a grinding wheel.^[1]

Trapiche emeralds were first described by [Émile Bertrand](#) in 1879. They are generally only (and rarely) found in the western part of the [Eastern Cordillera](#) basin, in the [Muzo](#), Coscuez and Peñas Blancas mines of Colombia (but likely not in [Chivor](#) as reported in older literature). Singular finds in Brazil and Madagascar have also been reported.^[1]

The radial pattern exhibits considerable variance, and often includes a hexagonal structure at the core. There is not yet consensus about the mechanism by which the pattern forms, or the conditions required for it. Various models have been proposed.^[1] According to one interpretation the black impurities are remains of the [shale](#) matrix in which the emeralds formed, trapped between the radial [dendrites](#) of the growing emerald.^[1] The trapiche pattern is not an [asterism](#), an optically similar pattern that forms in a different process.^[2]

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

Member Photos –
By Del Glasner working at home



Finally found some use for the empty box of candy



Classroom/Shop: Closed

Shows

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

Websites that may be of Interest:

Make your own clasp

<https://studiodax.wordpress.com/2010/07/26/getting-hooked-or-how-to-make-a-clasp/>

Emerald Mines

<https://about.emeralds.com/mining-locations/colombia-emerald-mines/>

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