

The Golden Nugget

FGCGMS Latest News and Announcements:



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Our Next Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday February 18st 2025, at 7:30pm

At the “Ye Olde Rock Shoppe”

1425 South 30th Avenue, Suite C., Hollywood, Florida 33020.

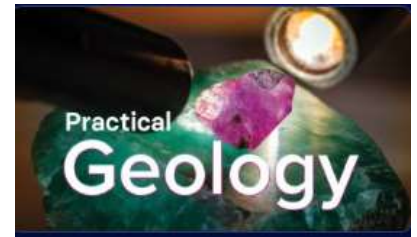
Reminder: “Ye Olde Rock Shoppe” will donate 50% of your member purchase back to the club.

Monthly Program Presentation:

This Month's Program Presentation:

This month's program presentation will be the next installment video by James Cotter.

Program title – “Is this Valuable? – Gems and Meteorites” – 21st video from Practical Geology by James Cotter. **Practical Geology** is a 4 CD Program/Course broken down in 24 parts and each topic is on a different subject and will be a great value to beginning understanding “Earth Science”/ Geology



This Month's Program Presentation:

Last month's presentation, “**Calcite Clams of Florida,**” was given by Scott Augutis, author of *Calcite Clams of Florida*. Scott's work highlighted the beauty of rare, approximately 2-million-year-old Early Pleistocene **Mercenaria permagna** fossil clams. These remarkable fossils are inlaid with striking, **fluorescent golden “dogtooth” calcite crystals** and have been found throughout South Florida—most notably at Rucks Pit in the Fort Drum area. Scott's show-and-tell was fantastic and sparked a lively discussion throughout the presentation about potential future digs in Vero Beach and Fort Drum. Thank you, Scott—we hope you'll come back soon!



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Last Month's Meeting Highlights (Continued):



Specimen 1:

My best clam in matrix !

At 4 inches across, this clam contains single crystals at more than 1.25 inches long.

I had to stop digging in one area as we were coming too close to a road. My friend Eddie Rucks suggested I try a high rock wall to the West, so I moved my stuff.

I picked up my blue bucket and slammed the wall with water. Then I looked inside the wall I saw some promising crystal. After lots of careful digging, I found what you see here.

I climbed up out of the pit and brought the clam immediately to the front seat of my car.

I wasn't taking any chances with this one !

Oddly, after more digging, not a single other clam with crystals was nearby.

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Editorial:

Dear Fellow Rockhounds,

I began my tenure as club president in June of 2024. At that time, I started writing down ideas and goals that I hoped we could accomplish together as a club. I'd like to share some of those ideas with you now—both to highlight what we have achieved and to acknowledge what still needs attention. Here are some of the initiatives we have worked on:

Ideas for our Rock Club – my notes

- Share our newsletter with all three local clubs — *completed*
- Invite other clubs to participate in our meetings — *completed*
- Increase participation in raffles and meetings — *ongoing*
- Invite other clubs to give talks or teach classes — *partially completed*
- Provide bylaws to new (and existing) members — *partially completed*

Transparency and Operations (per bylaws)

- Publish a budget and desired purchases — *completed*
- Share operating expenses — *completed*
- Increase overall transparency — *completed*

Outreach and Education

- Invite schools and teachers to our meetings — *in progress*
- Share mineral knowledge with children and students — *in progress*
- Inspire future mineral collectors and geologists — *ongoing*
- Consider free or reduced-cost junior memberships — *not yet discussed with the board*
- Encourage presenters to provide handouts to attendees — *under consideration*

Community and Partnerships

- Fix and renew our website — *completed, but still needs updates*
- Contact local geology departments and universities for presenters — *partially completed.*

I would like to use this editorial to invite your ideas and participation. My email and phone are open—please feel free to text me, call me, or speak with me at meetings. I am also actively seeking volunteers in the following areas:

Newsletter Team

I don't want to be the only person choosing topics. Fresh ideas and contributions are welcome.

New Members & Sunshine Committee

Ernest Ashurst has done an excellent job contacting active members, but he could use help.

We also need someone to reconnect with sick or missing members.

Program Committee

Jeff Gross and I need help contacting universities, past presenters, and potential speakers.

New Shop Re-Opening Committee

I need assistance contacting local business owners and government offices to explore possible free or low-cost spaces.

Youth Outreach & Summer Library Program

I am planning to launch classes in June. Our first session will cover **Mineral Identification**, followed by **demonstrations of lapidary arts, polishing, faceting, and jewelry making**. I am coordinating with other South Florida clubs to expand this program. Your involvement can make a real difference in the future of our club. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Upcoming Events and News FGCGMS:

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Practical Geology is a 4 CD Program/Course broken down in 24 parts and each topic is on a different subject and will be a great value to beginning understanding "Earth Science"/ Geology

Upcoming Events and News, GMSPB

Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches

FEBRUARY

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Open to All



February 19th, 7:00pm

MEETING DETAILS

4800 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach FL 33405

(STEM Building across from the museum)

ENTER THE WORLD

of gemstones, minerals, fossils, rocks, jewelry, beads and lapidary.

It is a hobby that's rewarding, exciting and educational for any age.

JOIN NOW

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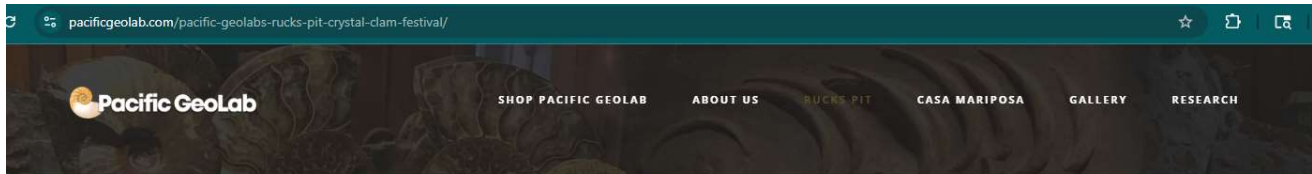
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Upcoming Events and News, Miami RockNerds (formally MMLG) February 22nd, 2026 Monthly Member Meeting

Upcoming Events (Not Club Related)

PacificGeoLabs is hosting a public dig at **Rucks Pit** – Here is the link to the website
<https://pacificgeolab.com/pacific-geolabs-rucks-pit-crystal-clam-festival/>

Now you have a chance to dig your own for as little as \$350!



Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Festival March 19–21st 2026 Registration

Next event date is schedule for:
March 19–21st 2026

You are hereby invited to register for the upcoming Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Festival, where you will learn all about the geology and paleontology of this unique site, see displays and demonstrations of fossil preparation, and, of course, dig for some of the most beautiful

Introductory Video



Here's your chance to dig the world famous Rucks Pit crystal clams!
at
The Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Festival

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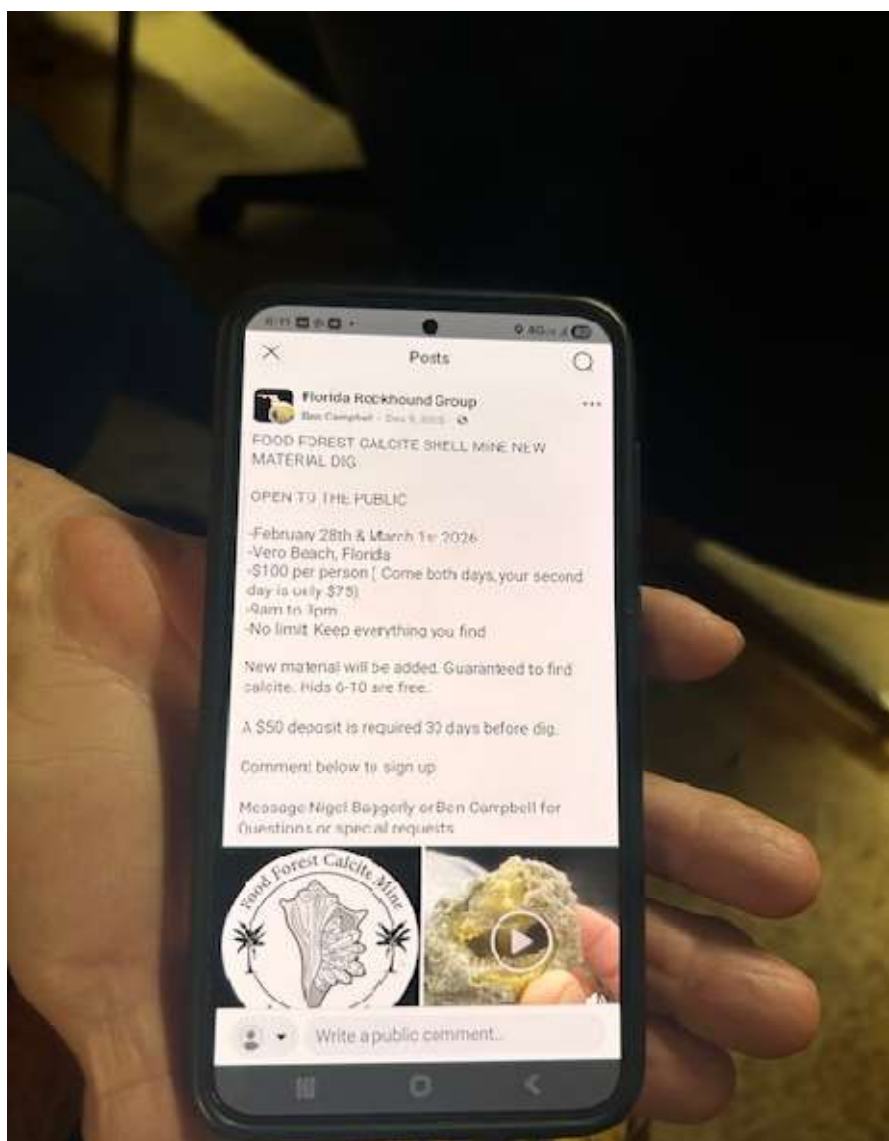


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Upcoming Events (Not Club Related)

Also, Nigel Baggerley from Food Forest is having a Private dig on February 28th and March 1, 2026. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1453096544974542/>

The Palm Beach Club has already a large group set for Sunday March 1. There are spots opened for Saturday the 28th. Miami and Broward have about 5 people interested. Contact Julio Lopez or Lauren Kiarella to get the price down to 75.00. We recall needing 5 or more. If not, it is \$100 per person.



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Upcoming Events (Not Club Related)

Club out of Sarasota send via our website the following flyer on their show.

Florida's Fine Gem, Jewelry, & Mineral Show
March 27 - 29, 2026

Robart's Arena
3000 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, Florida 34237

\$10 Admission
Free Parking

www.MineralshowsLLD.com

Fri & Sat: 10 am - 6 pm
Sun: 10 am - 5 pm



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Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc is hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on April 18th and 19th, 2026 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Saturday 9am to 5pm and Sunday 9am to 4pm. Vendors offering rocks, minerals, gemstones, fossils, beads, jewelry, artifacts, metaphysical stones, handcrafted cabochons, etc. Silent auction, door prizes, demonstrations and family activities. Admission fee: Adults \$6, Kids \$3 and Scouts in uniform free. Website: www.cfmgs.org. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or e-mail: ssfossilhunter@aol.com.

CENTRAL FLORIDA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY

THE ROCK, MINERAL, GEM, AND JEWELRY SHOW

APRIL 18-19, 2026
SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM
SUNDAY 9AM - 4PM

GEMSTONE, CRYSTAL & MINERAL VENDORS
LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS,
CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES, RAFFLE,
SILENT AUCTIONS AND HAND-MADE JEWELRY.

ADMISSION FEE:
AGES 16 AND UP \$6.00 PER DAY
AGES 6-15 \$3.00 PER DAY

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
2809 S. FERN CREEK AVE.,
ORLANDO, FL 32806



WWW.CFMGS.ORG

CONTACT: CFMGSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM

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FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE – AMETHYST (Source GIA)



If you were born in February, your birthstone is amethyst – the purple variety of quartz that has captivated mankind for millennia. Its lilac to deep purple hues can be cut into many shapes and sizes, and it can be manufactured in a lab as well as mined. Amethyst, the February birthstone, can be found in the collections of royal families throughout Europe and Asia. Now it's within reach of most consumers. Consider buying a stunning amethyst for the king or queen of your heart – or treat yourself to a royal present.

If your birthday is in February, then wearing an amethyst can also be a symbol of personal empowerment and inner strength. The name "amethyst" derives from the Greek amethystos, which means "a remedy against drunkenness," a benefit long ascribed to the purple birthstone. Because of its wine-like color, early Greek mythology associated the gem with Bacchus, the god of wine. Amethyst was also believed to keep the wearer clear headed and quick witted in battle and business affairs. Renaissance Europeans thought it calmed lovers overrun by passion.

Amethyst is the gem traditionally given for the [sixth wedding anniversary](#). Wear it in celebration of your wedding nuptials or as your February birthstone and you'll be in royal company: Catherine the Great (Empress Catherine II of Russia, 1729–1796) had a pendant for the gem and decked herself in amethyst necklaces, earrings and other ornaments. The famous

Ye Olde Rock Shoppe



Ye Ole Rock Shoppe

1425 S 30 Avenue, Suite , Hollywood, FL 33020

954-295-0606, 954-610-8084

Yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net

<https://yeolderockshoppe.com>

"Best rock shop in south Florida"

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jewelry connoisseur Wallis, Duchess of Windsor (1896–1986), made a memorable statement when she wore a lavish [Cartier-designed amethyst bib](#) necklace to a gala in Versailles in 1953.



The Duchess of Windsor's bib-style necklace boasts 28 step-cut amethysts, one oval faceted amethyst, and a large heart-shaped amethyst in the front, as well as turquoise cabochons and brilliant cut diamonds, all suspended from a rope-like gold chain. Courtesy: N. Welsh, Cartier Collection © Cartier

Historically, royals have admired the deep purple hue of the February birthstone since at least the days of Alexander the Great. Amethyst lore also includes several claims to mystical powers, including that it would convey strength and wit to those who wore it. If you celebrate a February birthday, wearing an amethyst can be a symbol of personal empowerment and inner strength.

WHERE IS AMETHYST FOUND?

Russia was the major source of amethyst until the 19th century, when large deposits were found in Brazil. Once as rare as ruby or emerald, amethyst was suddenly in abundance. Today, the most important sources of amethyst are in Africa and South America. Brazil is still a major supplier, especially its southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul, though the rough amethyst mined there tends to have a lighter color than amethyst found in other countries. Amethyst from Brazil sometimes forms in hollow, crystal-lined geodes so large you can stand in them.

The Anahí mine in Bolivia is another prominent source for amethyst. Hidden in the Pantanal wetlands, the Anahí mine is shrouded in fascinating lore. It was discovered by a Spanish conquistador in the 1600s, given to him as dowry when he married Anahí (a princess from the Ayoreo tribe), forgotten for three centuries, and rediscovered in the 1960s. The Anahí mine is also famous in gem circles as the source of the unusual bicolored amethyst-citrine crystals called ametrine.

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A treasure trove of amethyst and ametrine crystals line the walls of Bolivia's historic Anahí mine.

Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

Amethyst is also found in the United States, just 46 miles (74 km) outside of Phoenix, Arizona. The Four Peaks amethyst mine is located high in the most rugged part of the Mazatzal Mountains. A remote location, hot summer temperatures, and a lack of water and power at the mine make for challenging conditions. Yet this jagged, arid, rattlesnake-infested terrain produces some very fine dark purple and purplish red amethyst crystals.



The Four Peaks amethyst mine is in a remote area northeast of Phoenix, Arizona. Photo: James Shigley/GIA

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Amethyst Birthstone Care & Cleaning:

Amethyst is a 7 on the [Mohs scale of hardness](#). This means that it is appropriate for daily use in rings and other jewelry, but over time it may show wear and require repolishing. Because this February birthstone is more susceptible to damage than harder gems such as rubies, sapphires and diamonds, you risk scratching your amethyst jewelry if you place it next to these harder stones...

Heat treatment is the most common technique for improving the color and marketability of natural amethyst. Heat treatment can't make pale amethyst darker, but it can lighten the color of very dark amethyst and make it more attractive. It can also remove unwanted brownish inclusions in some amethysts. Some amethyst turns yellow – to citrine – with heat treatment.



Poochie Pawlor – By Susan Anderson

1621 N. Hiatus Road, Pembroke Pines FL 33026

Amethyst birthstone jewelry can be cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner, but steam cleaning is not recommended. A soft brush with mild soap is the safest option. As you shop for the February birthstone, you'll also encounter lab-created amethyst. Having the same chemical and physical properties as its natural counterpart, synthetic amethyst has been known since the 1970s. In some cases, it is very difficult to distinguish natural from synthetic amethyst without access to advanced gemological testing. The GIA Laboratory can tell the difference, but many in the jewelry industry do not request testing because of the cost and time required to determine the origin of what is a comparatively inexpensive gem. Still, merchants are required to tell you if a gem is natural or synthetic.

Heat treating amethyst results in a permanent change in color. However, submitting it to intense heat may render it slightly more brittle than usual, and care must be taken not to damage pointed faceted corners and sharp edges. Note, too, that excessive heat can remove the color entirely, and some amethyst fades with prolonged exposure to strong light. Though the color is stable with normal use, this is not a birthstone to wear to the beach every

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*This amethyst and diamond ring set in recycled 18k gold is part of the Galaxy Collection, designed by Arya Esha.
Courtesy: Arya Esha*

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On the Puny Side:

I don't want you thinking that he is only **"rock and roll"**. Therefore, this **"pebble-cation"** contains more **brilliant** rock puns **dug up** just for you.

Did you hear about the drunk geologist? **He finally hit "rock bottom"**.

Who is a geologist's favorite band? **The Rolling Stones**.

Why was the Gem extra cheap? **Because it was on shale**.

Hoping this give me for a **"clean slate"**. Now go have a **"drink on the rocks"**. On me!!! Have **Gneiss Day**.



The Crystal Cave
Rock and Gem Shop



Crystal Cave Rock
6835 Stirling Road,
Fort Lauderdale Florida 33314,
<https://thecrystalcaverockandgemshop.com>
(954) 585- 8988 Fax: (954) 585-8988
Email: jackiescrystalcave@att.net

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List of Officers:

Function	2nd Function	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
President	Database Manager	Julio Lopez	786-603-8081	floridagemmineral@gmail.com
Vice President	Shop Foreman	Don Titman	305-502-4345	nolewake@yahoo.com
Secretary	Program Committee	Susan Anderson	954-559-9198	poochiepawlor@aol.com
Treasurer		Eridania Lopez	786-253-1903	EridaniaFz2059@gmail.com
Shop Foreman	Program Committee	Lucas Bush	954-588-6323	snugglefish22@gmail.com
Sunshine Chair		Mirtha Rimarachin	954-948-7657	mrmarac88@gmail.com
Member Committee		Vacant		
Refreshments Committee		Ariel Helman	305-335-4405	arielh305@gmail.com
Game Master / Quiz Committee		Dick Haliburton	954-249-0365	dickhaliburton@gmail.com
Newsletter Committee		Vacant		
Newsletter Committee		Jeffrey Gross	954-987-0645	jgrossarchitect@gmail.com

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Club Advertisers:

Ye Olde Rock Shoppe



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1425 S 30 Avenue, Suite C
Hollywood, FL 33020
954-295-0606, 954-610-8084

Yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net
<https://yeolderockshoppe.com>

The Crystal Cave Rock and Gem Shop



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CRYSTAL VISION shop + create + love



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Contact Stephanie Picano-Guzman or Donna
Varin at 954-981-4992