

# The Golden Nugget

FGCGMS Latest News and Announcements:



March 2026 Volume 48 Issue 1

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## Our Next Monthly Meeting:

**Wednesday March 18<sup>st</sup> 2026, at 7:30pm**

At the "Ye Olde Rock Shoppe"

1425 South 30<sup>th</sup> 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 will be presented by Julio Lopez, Michael Wohlgemuth and Evan Chorne. It will feature the

**Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and a little on Quartzsite Arizona POW POW.**



## Last Month's Program Presentation:

Last month the club viewed an instructional presentation titled "*Is This Valuable? – Gems and Meteorites*," the 21st video in the Practical Geology series by Dr. James Cotter. In this program, Dr. Cotter explores the world of precious gems and minerals, helping the average rockhound understand what to look for when evaluating potential finds. The presentation covered key characteristics that can indicate value, important factors to consider when identifying specimens, and even suggested potential field locations for rockhounding. It was an informative and practical guide for anyone interested in learning more about identifying valuable gems, minerals, and meteorites in the field.



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## Editorial:

I'm excited to share highlights from my recent trips to Tucson and Quartzsite, Arizona. I came home with some fantastic rockhounding finds and purchases, but even more valuable were the connections I made with fellow enthusiasts who share our passion for rockhounding and the lapidary arts.

While there, I gathered several new field trip ideas, which I've already added to our **Field Trip Database**. As I did at the West Palm Beach and Miami club shows, I also took every opportunity to promote our club. I invited people to visit South Florida and discover that we have our own "**Florida Treasures**," including the beautiful Ruck's Pit dogtooth calcite and our incredible fossil deposits—especially the famous shark teeth.

I'm also pleased to report that progress is underway on our **Outreach Program**. New Member and Broward Librarian for Delray Beach, Kathy Echavarría and I have outlined four educational presentations that we hope to offer this May or June through the **Broward Library System**. In the coming weeks I will be reaching out to members—and to our neighboring clubs—for volunteers and resources.

Here are a few ways you may be able to help:

- Volunteers willing to **demonstrate the lapidary arts** at three library presentations.
- Donations of **common rock-forming minerals** (quartz, calcite, feldspar, pyroxenes, pyrite, etc.). A more detailed list will follow.
- Suggestions on where we might obtain **stereoscopes or polarized light microscopes**, as I am developing a short lesson on mineral identification using polarized light microscopy.

Thank you in advance for supporting these outreach efforts and helping us share our passion for geology with the community.

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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**Activities and holidays etc. precluded us from booking the Tri-County Picnic for April or May. The clubs have agreed to hold it on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2006.**

**Darlene Harris is planning a field trip to the "2026 Venice Sharks Tooth Festival".**

Here is a section of Darlene's flyer:

**FIELD TRIP: Shark Tooth and Fossil Hunt at Brownville Park, Arcadia, FL**

**Plus 2026 Venice Sharks Tooth Festival**

**Come for a Day or for the Weekend**

**Dates: Thursday, April 9 to Monday, April 13**

**Accommodations:** Group Leaders will be camping at Brownville Park; Inexpensive RV and tent sites available, Pet Friendly; For Camping Reservations Phone: **863-491-7507**

We have a couple tents and other gear you can borrow on a first come first served basis.

**Link to Brownville Park:**

<https://www.dcsotobocc.com/facilitics/facility/dctails/brownvillcparkboatramp-l>

**OR: Holiday Inn Express** (about 5-7 minutes drive from park) Phone: 866-994-8744

Day Use Park Entry Fee is \$2.00 pp/ day

**Tentative Itinerary:**

Thursday, April 9: Arrival, possible informal evening get together at Brownville Park

Friday, April 10: Meet about 10 a.m. at Brownville Park to dig at the Peace River shoreline which is inside the park. Canoe and kayak rentals are inexpensive and available through the park.

Saturday, April 11: Meet to carpool or caravan to the 2026 Venice Sharks Tooth Festival- Free Admission and Shuttles from Parking Area: Fossil and Rock Vendors, Live Music, Kids Zone (Hands on activities), Food Trucks, and more. You can also drive to the festival and we will find each other there. Remember to wear your new nametags!

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## Upcoming Events and News FGCGMS: (continued)

Link to 2025 as 2026 is still in the works: <https://hvwww.visitvenicefl.org/event/2025-venice-sharks-tooth-festival/>

Stay as long as you like, and we may want to go from there on a short ride to hunt fossils on the beach at Brohard Paw Park (dog friendly) and/or Caspersen Beach (no pets).

Saturday Night: Possible program, rock swap, guest speaker, or "Drive In Style Creature Feature"

Sunday, April 12: Freestyle Day- Dig at the park, go back to the festival, check out and drive home, possible rock swap or other program if enough people are staying over

Monday, April 13: Check Out

**FGCGMS is also planning an Educational Activity** – mineral, siftings/sieving through sand for mineral etc. This event is planned for April 18<sup>th</sup> with the **City of Plantation**. Call me 786-603-8081

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## Upcoming Events and News, GMSPB

Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches

### MARCH

### MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Open to All



**March 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.

**Cox-Multi-Purpose Center**

**"Agates in Their Many Forms" Presented by Club Member Alan Meltzer.**

**WHERE: inside the STEM Bldg. 4800 Dreher Trail N (across from the museum).**

**ROCK HOUND CHALLENGE for MARCH will be your best ...GREEN... GEM or SPECIMEN. The prize for the winner will be TBD! \_\_\_\_\_ Please BRING a SNACK to SHARE DOOR PRIZES SILENT [...]**

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## Upcoming Events and News, Miami RockNerds (formally MMLG)

### Monthly Member Meeting

Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

at the BETTER FAMILIES THROUGH TAE KWON DO

located at 6723 SW 81st St. Miami, FL 33143

just behind THE BIG CHEESE, a South Dade dining landmark.

Besides our meeting and educational presentation there will be raffles, refreshments, and door prizes.

**The Miami Rock Nerds will have several activities at the**

**Maker Faire, Miami**

On April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-through 5pm

at the Miami Dade County Fair & Expo Center

**What is Maker Faire?**

Maker Faire is a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do. From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, Maker Faire is a venue for these "makers" to show hobbies, experiments, projects. We call it the Greatest Show (& Tell) on Earth - a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness.

Glimpse the future and get inspired!



Hands-on with Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild

Come learn about the lapidary arts. Watch experienced Lapidarists demo on the art of beading, wire wrapping and shaping stones. Experience the art of rock painting or making a beaded bracelet.

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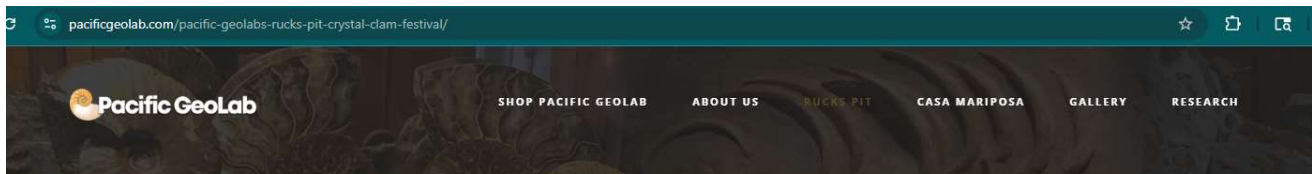


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## Upcoming Events (Not Club Related)

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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## 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](http://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](http://www.cfmgs.org). Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or e-mail: [sfossilhunter@aol.com](mailto:sfossilhunter@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**

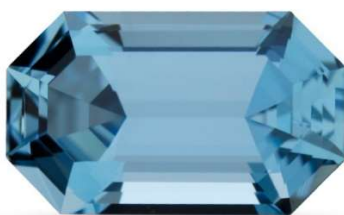
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## MARCH BIRTHSTONE – Aquamarine and Bloodstone (Source GIA)



COURTESY: GLEN PREUS (LEFT)

Aquamarine and bloodstone, March's two birthstones, are very different when it comes to appearance, but they share a similar reputation for protecting one's well-being. The aquamarine birthstone evokes the colors of the sea. From deep green-blue to light, slightly greenish blue hues, faceted aquamarines are often free from inclusions and as clear as water, symbolizing purity of spirit and soul. The bloodstone birthstone is typically a dark-green cabochon that contains red spots of iron oxide, the "blood" that brings health and strength to the wearer. Read on to learn more about these two March birthstones – what they mean and where they can be found.

### Aquamarine Birthstone (Source GIA)

#### Aquamarine Birthstone Meaning and History

Aquamarine's name comes from the Latin for seawater, and ancient mariners claimed the gem would calm waves and keep sailors safe at sea. This March birthstone was also thought to bring happiness in marriage. Beryl was believed to give the wearer protection against foes in battle and litigation. It was also thought to make the wearer unconquerable and amiable, and to quicken the intellect.

Aquamarine is not only the birthstone for March, but the gem is also given as a present on the 19th wedding anniversary. As for famous ones, in 1936 the government of Brazil gave First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt a dark blue rectangular step cut aquamarine that weighed 1,298 carats (ct). It was the larger of two stones faceted from a piece of aquamarine rough that itself weighed an impressive 2.9 pounds (1.3 kilograms). It is now housed at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York. A celebrated attraction at the Smithsonian Institution is the 10,363 ct (about 4.6 pounds) Dom Pedro Aquamarine – believed

## 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](mailto:Yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net)

<https://yeolderockshoppe.com>

**"Best rock shop in south Florida"**

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to be the largest faceted aquamarine in the world. The approximately 14 inch (36 centimeter) high obelisk was fashioned by acclaimed German lapidary Berndt Munsteiner using the fantasy cut technique.

The government of Brazil gave this 1,298 ct rectangular step cut aquamarine to Eleanor Roosevelt when she and President Roosevelt visited Rio de Janeiro in 1936. Courtesy: The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, New York



## Where is Aquamarine Found?

The Brazilian state of Minas Gerais has been an important source of aquamarine for the past two centuries. Travel there and you'll find a changing panorama of landscapes: rocky hills, rivers and scrub brush dominate the central and eastern regions; savannahs, forests and streams checker the west; and lush green hills roll southward. Aquamarines are found in primary (hard rock) and secondary (weathered) **pegmatite deposits** in the eastern portion of the state, near the gem center of Teófilo Otoni.



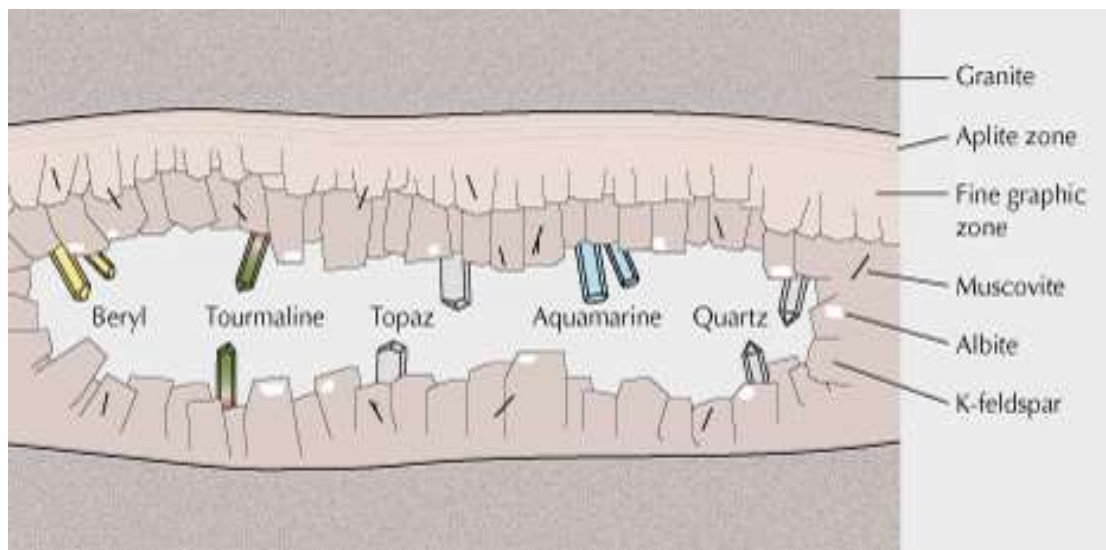
Pegmatites are granitic deposits forming in the subsurface and many times contain large veins that cut through the surrounding "country rock". Pegmatites very often also contain "vugs" or cavities that are past gas bubbles. This leads to the perfect environment for the formation of almost perfect crystals.

# The Golden Nugget

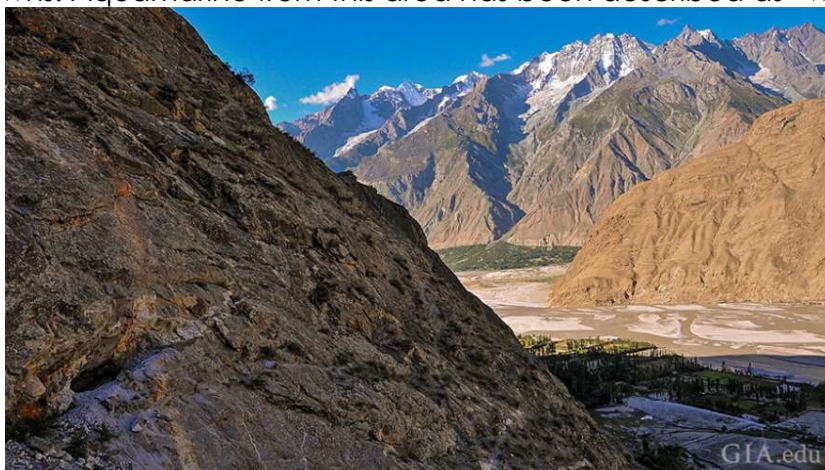
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Aquamarine is also found high in the Karakorum foothills of Pakistan. To reach the deposits, miners must climb steep paths to elevations of 9,800 to 13,000+ feet (3,000 to more than 4,000 meters) and work the sides of forbidding cliffs. Below this inhospitable rocky world lie fertile valleys, rushing rivers and small towns. Aquamarine from this area has been described as "water clear."



A sliver of an opening (on the far left) along this steep mountainside is the entrance to an aquamarine mine. Pakistan's gem-rich Shigar Valley lies between foothills of the majestic Karakoram range. Photo: Vincent Pardieu/GIA

Aquamarine birthstones are also mined in Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia and Mozambique, as well as elsewhere in Africa. U.S. sources include the Mount Antero area of Colorado (it's the state gem) and California's Riverside and San Diego counties. In addition, aquamarine has been found in China, Myanmar, Russia and Ukraine, among other countries.

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## Aquamarine Birthstone Care and Cleaning:

With a hardness of 7.5–8 on the Mohs scale, this March birthstone is durable enough for everyday wear. Caring for the gem is easy. Use warm water, mild dish soap and a toothbrush to scrub behind the birthstone where dirt can collect. Ultrasonic cleaners and steam cleaning are usually safe options as long as there are no fractures or liquid inclusions in the gem.



**Poochie Pawlor – By Susan Anderson**

1621 N. Hiatus Road, Pembroke Pines FL 33026



GIA.edu

*This 10.06 ct pear shaped aquamarine is surrounded by 72 round diamonds (0.35 carats) that are set in platinum. Courtesy: Omi Privé*

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## On the Puny Side:

I'm running low on rock puns for this Golden Nugget "**pebble-cation.**" I may need your **assist-stones** next month... otherwise I'll have to be **boulder** and start re-using some of the old ones!



What do you call a rock that never goes to school?  
**A skipping stone!**

What did the metamorphic rock say during the exam?  
**"This is too much pressure!"**

My wife told me she's thinking about selling **Egyptian rocks.**  
Sounds like a **pyramid scheme** to me.

We will soon begin **voting for the best rock puns**, so please keep reading—and start submitting your own!

Have Gneiss Day.



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

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## List of Officers:

Function	2nd Function	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
President, Editor	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	mrimarac88@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	jpgrossarchitect@gmail.com

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## Club Advertisers:

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[Yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net](mailto:Yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net)  
<https://yeolderockshoppe.com>

### The Crystal Cave Rock and Gem Shop



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6835 Stirling Road,  
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(954) 585- 8988 Fax: (954) 585-8988  
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33026

### CRYSTAL VISION shop + create + love



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<https://crystalvisionltc.com/>  
Contact Stephanie Picano-Guzman or Donna  
Varin at 954-981-4992