

The Golden Nugget

FGCGMS Latest News and Announcements:

Green Tourmaline

Imperial Topaz

Red Spinel

Natural Green Spinel

Spessartine Garnet

April 2026 Volume 49 Issue 1

Rutilated Quartz

Aquamarine

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Our Next Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday April 15th, 2026, 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:

Show & Tell: "Bring Your Favorite"

This month's program will be presented by YOU—our members!

Bring your favorite gem, mineral, rock, jewelry, or artwork, and share a brief 2–3- minute story:

- **What is it? Where did you find or acquire it? Why is it special to you?**

You may also bring an unknown specimen and ask the group for help identifying it. To prevent accidental damage, bringing a photo instead of the physical item is encouraged.



Last Month's Program Highlights:

Last month, **Julio Lopez, Michael Wohlgemuth, and Evan Chorne** delivered an informative presentation on the Tucson, Arizona gem shows. Based on the feedback received, the presentation successfully achieved its goal—helping prepare members for this incredible event. If you're planning a future trip, feel free to reach out to any of them for guidance!





Editorial:

I've noticed that even when I put out requests for input—ideas that could truly improve our club—don't always receive the level of response I'd hoped for. At times, that can be disheartening.

That said, I remain positive and committed. I truly believe that continued effort and enthusiasm will encourage both longtime and newer members to get more involved. I have heard back from a few members, and I sincerely thank **Darlene Harris** for her thoughtful suggestions—they are greatly appreciated.

To help spark more engagement, I'm developing a **reward, prize, and quiz system** tied directly to the monthly newsletter—called:

To increase engagement, I'm introducing a new initiative:

“Did You Read It?” 🗞️

Each month, there will be a short quiz based on the newsletter, agenda, and meeting minutes. The quiz will be given during meetings. At the end of the year, the member with the highest cumulative score will receive **a special rock or mineral prize**. This initiative pairs with our attendance incentives and is designed to make participation fun, interactive, and rewarding.

To the members who continue forwarding events, reels, and content—thank you as well.”

I 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 continue to seek volunteers in the following areas:

Get Involved – We Need You!

I am actively seeking volunteers in the following areas:

Newsletter Team

Help choose topics and contribute content—fresh ideas are always welcome.

New Members & Sunshine Committee

Assist in reaching out to members, especially those who are sick or have been absent.

Program Committee

Help secure speakers by contacting universities, past presenters, and professionals.

Shop Re-Opening Committee

Assist in exploring possible locations through outreach to local businesses and government offices.

Youth Outreach & Summer Library Program

Launching in May, June! Topics will include:

- Mineral Identification
- Lapidary demonstrations
- Polishing, faceting, and jewelry making.

Volunteers are needed. Your participation will help shape the future of our club. 🗞️

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Upcoming FIELD TRIP:



Shark Tooth Festival & Fossil Hunt

Brownville Park, Arcadia and Venice, FL

April 9–13, 2026

Includes the Venice Shark Tooth Festival

👉 Attend for a day or the full weekend (see last month's newsletter for details)



Upcoming Events and News FGCGMS:

Potential Field Trips (Interest Based)

Hogg Mountain Mine

4098 Whitesville Rd, LaGrange, GA 30240

9-hour drive from Hollywood, FL

Finds: Star Rose Quartz, Aquamarine Beryl, Black Tourmaline

Date & Cost: Saturday, August 22, 2026 \$35.00 pp

Accommodations: Camping at R SHAEFER HEARD

Campground, West Point Lake, West Point,

GA <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232683>

Optional: 1-day Private Dig with guide on Sunday, August 23.

\$35pp + \$100 guide fee to be split equally amongst participants, if there is interest and availability



Florida Space Coast Ghost Crab Beach Hunt

2-hour 45-minute drive from Hollywood, FL

Finds: Fossil Ghost Crabs, Coquina Stone, Possible Treasures from Shipwrecks

Meet at Lori Wilson Park and car caravan to other beach sites

Date & Cost: Day Trips - Parking and Park Entry Fees Apply

Overnight: We (Darlene & John Harris) are booking our beachfront timeshare condo at The Resort at Cocoa Beach, and will have our room plus 1 room reserved for club members that can sleep up to 6; 2-bedroom 2 bath full kitchen and pull-out couch for discounted rate of \$40/pp/ night with a \$75 resort fee divided equally.

Regular rate for obstructed beach view is \$366.46/ night; \$732.92 for the 2 nights OR \$438.13/ night Ocean View. You are welcome to stay at other accommodations and we can discuss getting guest passes to the resort for group activities. We plan to have a program Saturday night. Other Cost: \$5.00 pp Fossil Hunting Permit. Apply online at:

<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/florida-fossil-permit/application/>

IMPORTANT: We may stay at Discovery Beach Resort at Cocoa Beach instead of The Resort at Cocoa Beach. We will be calling both resorts to get more info.

Please contact Julio Lopez at 786-603-8081 and or Darlene Harris @ stay@cardinalinnbnb.com if interested



Upcoming Events and News, GMSPB

Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches

APRIL

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Open to All



April 16th, 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.

"Walking in the Footprints of Giant Dinosaurs" 👁️👁️ . Presented by Club Member Antonella Cassia
Come learn about the amazing field trip organized by the GSA to the San Antonio Region with its well preserved and HUGE dinosaur tracks!

Cox-Multi-Purpose Center
WHERE: inside the STEM Bldg. 4800 Dreher Trail N (across from the museum).



Upcoming Events and News, Miami Rock Nerds (formally MMLG)

***The Miami Rock Nerds will have several activities at the Maker Faire
Miami, Florida***

**On April 25th and 26th 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! Volunteer!! 🙄



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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Upcoming Events (Not Club Related)

[Central Florida Mineral & Gem Show - 04/18/2026](#)

Start Date: 04/18/2026

End Date: 04/19/2026

Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4

Venue: Florida Armory National Guard

Address: 2809 S Fern Creek Ave

Florida Armory National Guard

Orlando, FL

Website: <http://www.cfmgs.org/>

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

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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Upcoming Events (Not Club Related)

Join us at picturesque Sanford Civic Center, right off Lake Monroe:
401 E. Seminole Blvd, Sanford Florida 32771 (across from the marina) for the

For more information

info@floridafossilhunters.com,

(cell) 407-721-0481 or 407-699-9274

See information below for the 2025 Fossil Fair Dates

Scroll down for printable pdf version.

2026 FOSSIL FAIR

Florida Fossil Hunters

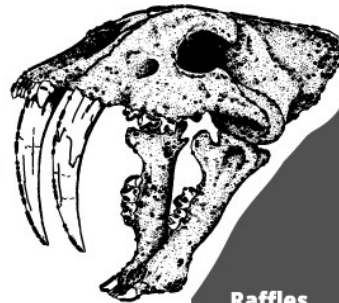
Thirty-Fifth Annual
**Fossils, Rocks,
Gems & Minerals**

Saturday, October 3, 2026

9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10:00 - 4:00pm



\$6.00 Adults | \$2.00 Children

**LEARN to dig in Florida and
see what can be discovered!**

Sanford Civic Center

401 E. Seminole Blvd,
Sanford Florida 32771

A picturesque location
right off Lake Monroe
(across from the marina)



For more information
contact us at one of the following info@floridafossilhunters.com,
(cell) 407-721-0481 or 407-699-9274, or visit

www.floridafossilhunters.com

We accept cash, local check, credit card & PayPal at the door.

Raffles

Vendors

Silent
Auctions

Children's
Activities

Educational
Displays

Airconditioned!
INDOORS!



April BIRTHSTONE – Diamonds (Source IGS/Geology.com)



The birthstone representing April is diamond. The vast majority of diamonds are transparent, colorless, and show an extraordinary display of well-defined white and multi-colored flashes. Rarely, diamonds also occur in a rainbow of exciting body colors.

Diamond is perhaps most famous for its superior durability. The gem gets its strength from a symmetrical atomic structure which is made from pure carbon. Diamond is difficult to damage, and, coupled with its fiery appearance, it is the most popular gemstone option for engagement rings. In fact, diamond jewelry of any kind can last so long that it is treasured by multiple generations. In addition to being the birthstone for April, diamonds are traditionally presented as gifts to commemorate 60th and 75th wedding anniversaries

What is the Color of the April Birthstone?

The vast majority of natural diamonds - somewhere near 98% of the total global product - are colorless. Colorless diamonds may express small amounts of yellow, brown, or gray. If all other factors are the same, colorless diamonds with lesser amounts of these colors are rarer, thus more valuable, than those with more.



This wide 18K white gold bracelet features a 9-row fluid sea of diamonds. While they are technically colorless, many sellers will commonly advertise them as white diamonds.

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APRIL BIRTHSTONE – Diamond (Source IGS/Geology.com)

The precise level that these colors present, if any are there at all, has such a powerful impact on the **price-per-carat value** of a diamond that a standardized scale describing the exact amount of color in a stone, the D-Z color scale, was developed by the GIA and is now accepted globally. Diamonds with a color of D have absolutely no color in them while Z gems have the most color allowed to still be considered colorless.

While colorless diamonds with less color are valued more than those with higher amounts, that doesn't mean that gems whose color grade falls lower on the alphabetic scale are any less beautiful. Beauty truly is measured in the eye of the beholder and different people are attracted to different colors. Some do prefer to stick with the pricer colorless grades (D, E, and F), which have a pure color and look especially amazing in white gold or platinum mountings. Others gravitate towards stones that have warmer tones, especially if they are placed in non-white mountings (ie, rose gold) as diamonds absorb light from their surroundings and then reflect those colors back to your eye.

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"



This 1.00 ct. diamond has a slightly warm color with a grade of L



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APRIL BIRTHSTONE – Diamond (Source IGS/Geology.com)

The remaining 2% of diamonds are considered "fancy-colored" gems. Fancy-colored diamonds can fall anywhere on the color spectrum, including pink, blue, green, black, brown, and gray. The various body colors are all caused by different factors which include the presence of internal chemical impurities and the environmental conditions that stones were exposed to while still in the Earth.

Like many colored gemstones, fancy-colored diamonds are evaluated based on the combination of their **hue, tone, and saturation**. Tone and saturation certainly influence the cost of gems within individual color categories (usually high saturations with deep but not overly dark tones are the most valuable), but the hue usually dictates the price range you will see.

Yellow and brown are the most common of the fancy colors, and there are some jewelry companies that specialize in them. You will frequently see brown stones listed by romantic names like "chocolate" or "champagne" diamonds. As these colors are more numerous, yellow and brown diamonds may fall into similar or overlapping price categories with colorless diamonds. If you are looking for an unexpected variation of April birthstone jewelry, yellow or brown diamonds might be a great fit! When it comes to many of the other fancy colors, the story regarding value is quite different. These gems can fetch astronomical prices - some of the best are sold for upwards of a million dollars per carat.

What is the Meaning of Diamonds?

Diamonds have represented both love and life for thousands of years and across many cultures. In the Hindu religion, it was believed that the deity Krishna gave a diamond to his sweetheart to reflect her natural beauty. The ancient Romans believed that if Cupid's arrows tipped with diamonds hit you, they inspired unbreakable love.

From a physical wellness standpoint, diamonds are often associated with brain health as well as a good sense of balance and having lots of energy. Diamonds have a very good thermal conductivity that makes them feel cool to the touch. Perhaps this enduring coolness inspired the belief that they also promote mental clarity. Additionally, it was thought that the gem could pull toxins out of the body if held close.



The 14K yellow gold mounting of these [hoop earrings](#) has a nice contrast with the colorless diamonds, but it also makes them appear to have a warmer color.

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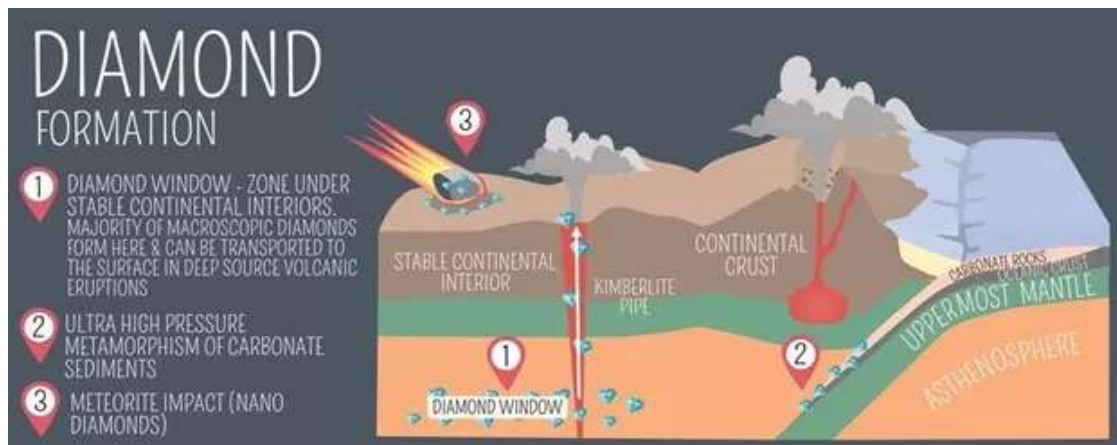
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APRIL BIRTHSTONE – Diamond (Source IGS/Geology.com)

Geology of Diamonds:

Diamonds form **under extreme high temperatures and pressures**. Rocks containing carbon (therefore diamonds) are brought up from the mantle to the surface of the earth by explosive igneous rocks. These are called kimberlites after Kimberly South Africa. Kimberlites intrude as pipes and dikes called diatreme pipes. Notable kimberlites are found in South Africa, Tanzania, Angola, and Siberia. However, diamond-bearing kimberlite-like rocks are currently known to be present in only two areas of the United States, Arkansas and the Colorado-Wyoming State Line.



Diamonds for local Rock hounds

For a small fee rock hounds can mine and hunt for diamonds at the CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK AND VICINITY, PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

Crater of Diamonds is the only public mining spot in the world where you can keep your diamond.

<https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/crater-diamonds-state-park>



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APRIL BIRTHSTONE – continued

Crystal Energy: Healing with Diamonds

♥ Purity ♥ Harmony ♥ Love ♥ Abundance ♥ Prosperity



A symbol of purity, the Diamond's pure white light helps to bring our lives into a cohesive whole. It brings love and clarity into partnerships, bonding relationships. Diamond is a sign of commitment and fidelity, and instills trust to relationships and situations. It inspires the forces of accumulation, attracting the manifestation of abundance. Diamond is an energy amplifier. It is a stone that never requires recharging. It will bring strength and endurance to all energies and will enhance the power of other crystals. However, beware, as this means it will increase negative energy as well as positive! Excellent for blocking electromagnetic stress and for protection against cell phone emanations.

Diamond imparts fearlessness, invincibility and fortitude. It clears emotional and mental pain, reducing fear and bringing about new beginnings. Stimulates creativity, inventiveness, imagination and ingenuity. It brings clarity of mind and aids enlightenment. Diamond allows the soul light to shine out. It aids spiritual evolution and reminds you of your soul's aspirations.

Diamond purifies and detoxifies all of the body's systems, rebalancing the metabolism, and building up stamina, strength and treating allergies and chronic conditions. It also helps glaucoma and clears sight. Diamond effectively treats dizziness and vertigo, and benefits the brain. Counteracts poisoning.

Source – charmsoflight.com



Poochie Pawlor – By Susan Anderson

1621 N. Hiatus Road,
Pembroke Pines FL 33026



On the Puny Side:

We're going **"topaz"** these puns along to you in the hopes that we truly **"rock"** it out this time and don't hit **"rock"** bottom. So, sit down and enjoy these puns and have a drink **"on the rocks"**.



Why did the two volcanoes face problems in their relationship?
Because they were star crossed lavas.

What do they do with a dead geologist?

"They barium" 🙄



Why was the geologist arrested?

Because he got caught for "pyrite-ing" geology puns

I know these **"fluorite"** past your heads!! Sorry!! May the **"quartz"** be with you!



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

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Lucas Bush	Shop Foreman	Program Committee	954-588-6323	snugglefish22@gmail.com
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Ariel Helman	Refreshments Committee		305-335-4405	arielh305@gmail.com
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Vacant 🐼	Newsletter Committee			
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The Crystal Cave Rock and Gem Shop



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 Owner, Susan Anderson

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CRYSTAL VISION shop + create + love



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<https://crystalvisionltc.com/>
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