



Florida Gold Coast Gem and Mineral Society

The Golden Nugget Newsletter



April 2025, Vol. 38 Issue 1

Next Monthly Meeting:

- Our next meeting will be April 16, 2025, at 7:30 PM at the “Ye Olde Rock Shoppe” 1425 S 30 Avenue, Suite C., Hollywood, Florida 33020.”
Reminder: “Ye Olde Rock Shoppe” will donate 50% of your member purchase back to the club.

Monthly Program:

These month’s program will be presented by Stephanie Picano-Guzman and Donna Varin of Crystal Vision – Please visit their website at <https://crystalvisionltd.com/>. There you will find what they are all about.

Program title –Crystal Energies and Reiki

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES:

Date:	3/19/2025
Time Start:	7:30pm
Time Ended:	8:30pm
Minutes taken By:	Susan Anderson
Previous Months Minutes Accepted by:	Julio Lopez
Attending Officers:	Julio Lopez, President Don Titman - VP Susan Anderson - Secretary Beverly Norona - Treasurer
Guest/New Members:	No New Guest
Treasurer’s Report:	Beverly indicated that the bank has 4352.07 and there is \$340.50 in petty case.
Other Notes/ Reports	16 members attended, \$87 in raffle, Coffee \$4:00
Shop Report:	Shop temporarily closed
Committee Reports:	
Program Presentation By:	Julio Lopez presented aspects of his masters’ geology thesis.



The presentation was very informative on sedimentary rocks forming in a volcanic terrain. More importantly, these ancient lake deposits contain agates, cherts and fossils that are great collection items for our hobby.

On other Agenda topics:

The club’s Tri-County Picnic is scheduled for April 27, 2025! This year, we anticipate a larger crowd than in previous years. The Miami club will be holding its monthly meeting at the picnic, and the Palm Beach club has informed us that many of their members plan to attend. Flyers have also been distributed to several local mineral shops to spread the word.

Bring the whole family—there will be great prizes this year! It’s shaping up to be a fantastic event.



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Editorial:

Need Help!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Get Involved!

The following positions are **critical** to the club's function and survival. Filling these roles will also prevent your president from burning out—he's getting close!

Treasurer

Beverly Norona has done an incredible job as our treasurer for over ten years, but she's ready to enjoy the club as a regular member. We need someone to step up and take on this important role, which includes collecting member dues, paying invoices, and maintaining the club's budget and bank statements. With Mary Alice Manella's help, we have already developed and implemented a club budget. However, we need more member participation to ensure financial reports are gathered and presented monthly.

Secretary

Susan Anderson, Beverly's sister, has also dedicated years of service and is now ready to enjoy the club as a member. The secretary's responsibilities include taking meeting minutes, coordinating club events (such as the picnic and Christmas party), and handling logistics for potential field trips.

New Member Chair

I currently manage the club's member database, but I need help! The **New Member Chair** will be responsible for sending emails, reaching out to members regarding dues, and working with both the Sunshine Member and Treasurer to track new and existing members. This role also involves helping the president recruit and welcome new members.

Webmaster Assistant Chair

I currently maintain the club's website, but I need assistance in keeping it updated with the latest information and events. If you have any experience (or are willing to learn), your help would be greatly appreciated!

Newsletter Editor

Right now, I write the newsletter, and Jeff Gross reviews it. A **co-editor** would be a huge help in co-writing articles and ensuring the newsletter remains informative and engaging.

2nd Program Chair

Jeff Gross and I currently work together to find program speakers, but we could use an extra hand. Fletcher Sessoms has been incredibly helpful—his speaker suggestions are coming up soon! While he will continue to assist, we need **one more person** to help us secure high-quality speakers for our meetings.

Your Help Keeps the Club Thriving!

If you're willing to step into any of these roles, please let us know. Your involvement is essential to keeping the club active and enjoyable for everyone! Thank you, your President, Editor, Webmaster, Program Chair etc., etc.



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Editorial – Continued - Past Member?

These two photos were part of the archives that Sean Branigan shared with us. As we looked through these files and pictures, we wondered if any of our current members recognize anyone in them. A club's history and growth are best captured through photos. They not only preserve the past but also tell the story to those who will follow. It's important that people and members are remembered.

In the last newsletter, I shared a one-page issue from 1969. We were curious if any current members noticed something interesting that might have influenced the editor's choice to feature that particular edition. **One paragraph mentions new members, Les and Marge DeGarmo, who had just joined the club.** Today, our library is named in their honor. It's really special to see how individuals who made such a positive impact on the club continue to be remembered.

We're glad we can help you reminisce. So, who are these members in the photos?





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Rock Star of the Month: Beverly Norona

In this new section of the newsletter, the club will feature a member that exemplifies best represents the club's mission and has contributed to further the clubs goal.

Beverly Norona – Club Treasurer

Wow! Beverly has been a dedicated member of the club for over 14 years, with more than a decade of service as club treasurer. If that is not dedication, I do not know what is!

She has done an exceptional job managing the club's finances with precision and integrity. Her careful budgeting, transparent reporting, and strategic planning have ensured both financial stability and growth. Thanks to her efforts, every dollar has been accounted for, expenses have been optimized, and resources have been allocated effectively. Over the past ten years, her work has not only safeguarded the club's financial health but also fostered trust and confidence among its members. Truly, a job well done!

However, Beverly's talents extend far beyond finance—her true passion lies in lapidary arts, including cabochons, faceting, and wire wrapping. Here is her Lapidary story.



Sterling Silver Wirewrapped Lapidolite Cabochon



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Various sapphires - rock hounded and by Beverly

Beverly Norona's passion for rocks and minerals began years ago, sparked by a family trip to **North Carolina**. During a visit to a roadside mining site in Highlands, she tried her hand at mining and unearthed a variety of fascinating stones. She was amazed to find sapphires, rubies, aquamarine, quartz, and other gems hidden within the earth. As she examined them more closely, she noticed some crystals that seemed like they could be cut into beautiful jewelry pieces



Tourmaline Facets in gold plated wirewrap

Curious, she visited a local shop called Crystal Cave and purchased a tumbler, eager to uncover the hidden beauty within the rough stones. To her surprise, she discovered stunning crystals inside stones she hadn't expected to be valuable, sparking her interest in getting them professionally cut.

Beverly also reached out to her sister, Sue, to see if there were any clubs where they could learn more about rocks and minerals. Together, they found the **FGCGMS (Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society)**, marking the beginning of their journey into the fascinating world of gems and minerals.



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Pink Quartz on sterling silver wirewrap



Tourmaline Wirewrap

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Beverly quickly found that her true passion lay with crystals, and she decided to learn how to cut them herself. She enrolled in a jewelry-making class taught by Don Dietz, a fellow club member, and started honing her skills in this rewarding craft. In addition to jewelry-making, Beverly and Sue made it a tradition to travel each year to different locations across the country in search of specific stones. They sought out opals in Nevada, tourmaline in San Diego and Maine, and of course, returned to North Carolina multiple times.

Over the years, Beverly expanded her knowledge in several other lapidary arts, including wire wrapping, prong setting, bracelet making, wire weaving, beading, metalsmithing, faceting, cabochon cutting, and chain maille. She also took trips to Montana to mine sapphires, and cutting many beautiful stones from her finds. Beverly has attended classes at Wild Acres in North Carolina and William Holland in North Georgia, often accompanied by her mom.



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She believes that there is always more to learn and is excited to continue expanding her skills in the world of rocks, minerals, and jewelry making. She loves working with these unique and beautiful stones to create one-of-a-kind pieces.

Enjoy! Contact Beverly at bevn12345@aol.com for any lapidary work that you need or wish to purchase!!



Various wire wrapped bracelets – by Beverly Norona



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APRIL BIRTHSTONE Diamond (Source GIA)

We have now covered a full year of birthstones since April 2024. So in the interest of beverty Here is re-print of Arpil 2024 birthstone data on Diamonds. In the following newsletters we will highlight onlt certain items of the the monthly birthstones as done in April 2024.

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

This classic eternity diamond necklace set in 14K white gold is a wonderful gift that can be worn with a t-shirt as easily as it can be with an evening dress.

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 classic eternity diamond necklace set in 14K white gold is a wonderful gift that can be worn with a t-shirt as easily as it can be with an evening dress.

Find this Necklace at Blue Nile

While they are technically colorless, many sellers will commonly advertise them as white diamonds. 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.

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

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



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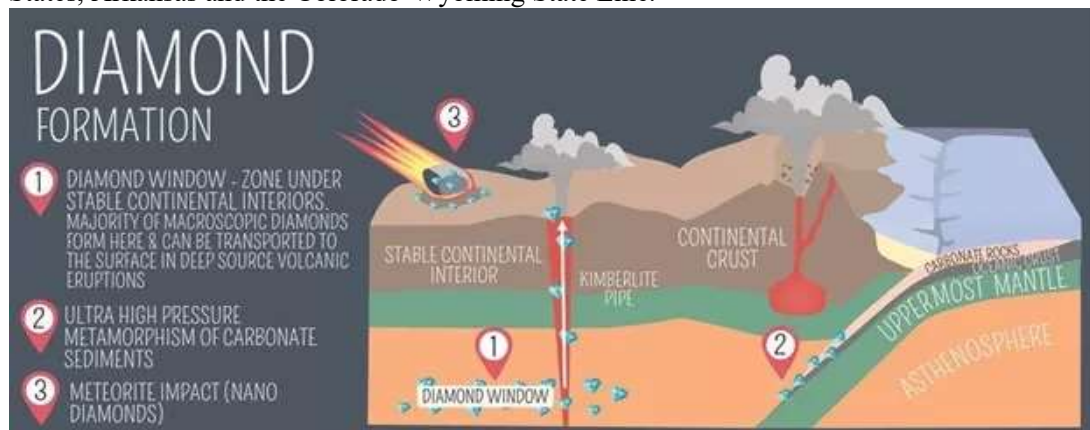
truly is measured in the eye of the beholder and different people are attracted to different colors. Some do prefer to stick with the pricer colorless grades (D, E, and F), which have a pure color and look especially amazing in white gold or platinum mountings. Others gravitate towards stones that have 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.

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.

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.

Geology of Diamond

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 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 word where you can keep your diamond.

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





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OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE – continued

Crystal Energy:



Healing with Diamond

♥ 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 – charmsflight.com



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What is it? (Section of Rock and Minerals Identification)

Tip #10– Several other properties

On the Puny Side:

I want to start a clean “slate” So no more bad rock puns. 😂 Sorry, but we really can’t help it.

Why did the miner stop digging?

He was stuck between a “rock and a hard place”.

How did the rock feel when he got covered in algae?

He was not “lichen it”.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Gneiss.

Gneiss who?

Gneiss to meet you!

Have a gneiss day!!!



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What is it? (Section of Rock and Minerals Identification)

Tip 10 – Tumbled Rocks Identification. We will return to mineral properties in the next newsletter; however, in this issue we found we would cover rock tumbling identification.

While browsing through the club's archives, we came across this helpful chart and thought it would be valuable to members with collections of tumbled rocks who need assistance identifying them. You can download the chart from rocktumbler.com by searching for "Tumbled Gemstone Identification Chart" on Google. We believe you'll find it extremely useful.

Tumbled Gemstone Identification Chart							
Provided by RockTumbler.com							
 Amazonite	 Apache Tears	 Apricot Agate	 Banded Amethyst	 Banded Carnelian	 Black Chalcedony	 Bloodstone	 Blue Beryl
 Blue Lace Agate	 Blue Chalcedony	 Blue Tiger Eye	 Botswana Agate	 Brecciated Jasper	 Carnelian	 Chrysocolla in Quartz	 Citrine Quartz
 Citron Magnesite	 Clear Quartz	 Coral, Agatized	 Colored Moonstone	 Crazy Lace Agate	 Dalmatian Stone	 Dumortierite	 Fluorite
 Gold Tiger Eye	 Green Aventurine	 Green Moss Agate	 Grossularite Garnet	 Hematite	 Howlite	 Hypersthene	 Kambamba Jasper
 Labradorite	 Lake Superior	 Lapis Lazuli	 Leopard Skin	 Lepidolite	 Lilac Amethyst	 Lionskin	 Mahogany Obsidian
 Malachite	 Mookaite	 Ocean Jasper	 Olive Opal	 Orange Quartz	 Petrified Wood	 Picasso Stone	 Picture Jasper
 Pink Aventurine	 Pink Botswana	 Pink Opal	 Polychrome Jasper	 Prehnite	 Rain Forest Rhyolite	 Red Jasper	 Red Tiger Eye
 Rhodonite	 Rose Quartz	 Ruby in Zoisite	 Rutilated Quartz	 Serpentine	 Snowflake Obsidian	 Sodalite	 Sunstone
 Tree Agate	 Turritella Agate	 Unakite	 White Moonstone	 White Quartz	 Yellow Jasper	 Yellow Quartz	 Zebra Marble

Purchase [Tumbled Stone Mixtures](#)

Purchase [Specialty Stones](#)



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Calendar of Events

January 15 th 2025, Wednesday,	Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 pm Ye OldeRock Shoppe
January 15 th 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
February 8th and 9th, 2025, Saturday and Sunday	FGCGMS Rock Sale – Don Titman House Corals, Agates, Jaspers, Jade, Some Lapidary Equipment
February 19, 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
March 19 th , 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
April 16 th 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
April 27th 2025, Sunday,	Tri county Club picnic at TY Park
May 21 st 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
June 18 th 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
July 16 th 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
August 20 th 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
September 17 th 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting
September 28th 2025, Sunday	Tri-county Picnic
October 15 th , 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting At this meeting, the club will open the officer and board of director nominations to the club membership.
November 18 th 2025, Wednesday	FGCG&M Society's Monthly Meeting At this meeting the club will accept Officer and Board of Directors nominations from the floor, close the nomination process, create the slate of candidates and start election procedure
December 17 th 2025, Wednesday	Monthly meeting and Christmas Party. Announcements of Officers, This month's meeting will be a special one as we celebrate our Annual Christmas Party! We hope you can join us for an evening of fun and festivities and great food. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's in store: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exciting Raffle • Fun Auction • Awards and Recognitions



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2025 Snack Volunteers

January	Julio Lopez
February	Steve Ackerman
March	Stephanie Strauss
April	Beverly Norona
May	Don Titman
June	Ernest Ashurst
July	Susan Anderson
August	Ariel Helman
September	Don Titman
October	Lucas Bush
November	Dick Haliburton
December	Christmas Party – No Volunteer(s) needed
Please contact Ariel Helman @ 305-335-4405 for changes.	

Club Info:

Club's Email: floridagemmineral@gmail.com

Club's Website: <http://www.fgcgms.org>

Club Facebook Page: [Florida Gem & Mineral Society](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaGem&MineralSociety)

Federation Website: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

Instagram: floridagemmineral – follow us on Instagram

Mailing Address: 8783 NW 142 Lane, Miami Lakes, FL 33018

List of Officers:

Function	2 nd Function	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address	2 nd E-mail Address
President	Database Manager	Julio Lopez	786-603-8081	floridagemmineral@gmail.com	juliolp2059@gmail.com
Vice President	Shop Foreman	Don Titman	305-502-4345	nolewake@yahoo.com	
Shop Foreman	Program Committee	Lucas Bush	954-588-6323	snugglefish22@gmail.com	
Secretary	Program Committee	Susan Anderson	954-559-9198	poochiepawlor@aol.com	poochiepawlor@aol.com
Treasurer		Beverly Norona	954-205-5815	bevn12345@aol.com	
Sunshine Chair		Stephanie Strauss	954-558-0559	stephanielynn.strauss@gmail.com	
Member Committee		Mirtha Rimarachin	954-948-7657	mrmarac88@gmail.com	
Refreshment Committee		Vacant			
Game Master / Quiz Committee		Ariel Helman	305-335-4405	arielh305@gmail.com	
Newsletter 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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Advertisers:

Ye Olde Rock Shoppe



Ye Ole Rock Shoppe
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



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



Poochie Pawlor – By Susan Anderson
1621 N. Hiatus Road, Pembroke Pines FL 33026



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IF YOU HAVE ARRANGED A SPEAKER FOR THE CLUB MEETING, PLEASE BE SURE ALL OF THE INFORMATION NOTED BELOW IS INCLUDED.

Email the form to the newsletter editor at floridagemmineral@gmail.com

Month the speaker will be speaking:

First Name

Last Name

*Title or Self Identifier: (for example rock hound, Geologist, whatever the person calls him/herself.)
(no more than five words)*

Type self-description here:

Title of Program:

Short paragraph on content of presentation:

Biographical information on presenter:

Phone number of speaker in case further information is needed:

Name of person submitting this form: