

ROCK-A-GRAM



April, 2008



Volume 39, No. 8, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center

1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg

Program:

What's Happening in Florida

Presented by: Brian Evensen

This month we welcome back a long time friend and honorary member Brian Evensen. Hopefully, he will have lots of good news about his ongoing digs and what has been happening on the Florida paleontology front. If you haven't heard he has moved his shop/museum "Lost in Time" from down the street to the Pier. We'll also find out if the move turned into an archeology dig itself and if anything unexpected was found. (We all have piles of rocks around our houses, imagine what his are like!)

Hope to see you all at this meeting.

If your last name starts with N-Z, please bring goodies to our meeting.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Bill Schmidt, President 727-822-8279
 Email: schmidwj@eckerd.edu
 3939 Porpoise Drive SE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Peter Palmer, Vice President 727-823 1793
 1144 -23rd Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer 727-321-5732
 Email: sujagems1@aol.com
 4823 14th Ave. N.
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Julia Larson, Recording Sec. ... 727-522-1254
 Email: juliamlarsen@earthlink.net
 5297 Huntington St. NE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Walt Upman, Corr. Sec. 727-323-3935
 Email: flupman19@yahoo.com
 3698 18th Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Homer Rankhorn, 3 yr. Director 727-812-4002
 Email: homer@rankhorn.com
 15666 49th Street North #1119
 Clearwater, FL 33762

Evie Loster, 2 yr. Director 727-821-7230
 Email: eloster@tampabay.rr.com
 2150 23rd Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Terry Bogard, 1yr. Director 727-523-8046
 Eemail: Grandpaboggie@yahoo.com
 15666-49th Street N. #1132
 Clearwater, FL 33762

Sue Black, Past President 727-345-8994
 8136 22nd Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Debra Bremer, Editor 727-298-0061
ROCK-A-GRAM

SGAMS Clubhouse Address: 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, www.sgams.com

Clubhouse Activities: Listed on mailer coversheet and announced at membership meetings.
SGAMS Board of Director's Meetings: 7:30 p.m., 1st Tuesday of each month; September - May.
 All members are invited to attend SGAMS Board of Director's Meetings at our clubhouse.
 We solicit your attendance, and constructive suggestions for improving our club.

Welcome!

You may have already heard (if you made the last meeting) that the County sent us the Certificate of Occupancy for the clubhouse. As of the March meeting there was just the environmental inspection left. Well, that inspection took place and we passed it. Which means we are done with the County!! The day we have been working towards is here. We can use the Clubhouse.

So now we have to do our part to get everything back in its place, cleaned, organized with some repairs and upgrades to be done. It is also time to start the standard upkeep of the building and grounds.

Board members and general members have been working to get the list done and we need more help. Feel free to contact a Board member to see when he/she will be working at the clubhouse and what needs to be done.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see the times that the cabbng room will be manned and the classes that we want to get underway. I need to remind members to review the cabbng room rules and abide by them. Those who have not produced a cabochon to demonstrate your ability to properly use the machines can now fulfill that requirement. I know there are a lot of us out there since the construction has been going for such a long time, many people joined during the time and the rules enforcement have been lax. I will be starting my cab this coming Monday during my shift as clubhouse monitor. We are going to fix up a display case to show them all off and labeled with your name.

Keep in mind that our Yard Sale is coming up we need help for Sue Hazelden and your good, clean items donated to the club.

Yours,
 Bill Schmidt, President

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Volume 61, Number 5, Newsletter – April, 2008
www.AMFED.org

2008 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation

June 27-29
Ventura, CA

Eastern Federation

Feb. 23-24
Jackson, MS

Midwest Federation

June 20-22
Lincoln, NE

Northwest Federation

June 20-22
Ontario, OR

Rocky Mountain Federation

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2
Tulsa, OK

South Central Federation

AFMS
Sept. 25-28
Humble, TX

AFMS Annual Convention

September 25-28, 2008
Humble, Texas



YARD SALE

We are holding our very last Yard Sale! (yes I have agreed to do it one more time.) We need to get the items out of the building and over to my house. It will be the 18th & 19th of April, 8 a.m., with the 17th at 12:30 p.m. for setting it up. All help will be welcome, and if you have items to donate, please drop them by at my house (please call first, 321-5732,) or bring to the meeting, or take them to the Club House and let me know.

Sue Hazelden

Upcoming Classes:

If you are interested in any of the following classes, (April 28 - May 3), please contact instructors below. (phone numbers on page 2).

Sue Hazelden - Gem Trees
Julia Larson - Glass Fusion
Pat Davis - Cabbing
Bill Schmidt - Cabbing

Club house will be open on Monday evenings, 3 - 8 p.m.
Bill Schmidt will be glad to teach you general cabbing.

Aluminum Cans Wanted!

Please bring your aluminum cans to the next meeting. I will take them to recycle. Bring everything you have.

Sue Hazelden



Federation Websites:

Future Rockhounds of America
www.amfed.org
Lodestar Newsletter
www.amfed.org/sfms_lodestar_newsletter.html
EFMLS News
www.amfed.org/efmls/newsletters.htm

William Holland and Wild Acres

One of the unique facets of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is the Workshop Program, which offers members the opportunity to gather for week-long, hands-on seminars taught by experienced instructors. Whether you are a newcomer to the lapidary arts and want to learn the basics, or whether you're an old hand who wants to learn something new or move on to the next level, the Workshop Program has something for you. We look forward to seeing you in 2008.

Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chair

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts (www.lapidary.com) is located in the mountains of north Georgia near the North Carolina border.

Wildacres Retreat (www.wildacres.org) is a privately owned conference center nestled in the North Carolina mountains near Little Switzerland. Please visit these websites for additional information.

Who May Attend:

Anyone belonging to an SFMS club will be given priority. Student under 18 are welcome, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult and must have approval from the workshop director and the instructor to attend an adult class. Members of other AFMS regional federations may attend on a space available basis. **Anyone not affiliated with AFMS may attend by paying an additional fee of \$50.** First-time workshop attendees and those taking a class for the first time will receive priority.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Applications from members of SFMS clubs will be accepted beginning February 1, 2008. Applications from other regional federations and the public at large will be accepted beginning April 1, 2008. Your club membership dues must be current and your club's dues to the Federation must also be paid before you will be accepted as an SFMS member.

A non-refundable administrative deposit of \$25 per person must accompany the application. The full amount may be remitted at that time. The balance is due four weeks before the workshop start date. No reminders will be sent. If you have not received written confirmation of your application within 30 days, please contact the registrar or education chair.

Refunds are at the discretion of the Education Chair and the workshop director; however no refunds will be made once the workshop has started. There is no adjustment for late arrival or early departure. No fee will be charged if a class is cancelled.

The **application form** is on the next page, along with the course offerings. Please read it carefully. **Note that some classes are marked with an asterisk (*), meaning they are Intermediate or Advanced, and therefore have prerequisites.** Please do not sign up for these classes unless you have the required experience. Contact the instructor for more information on these classes.

About instructors:

All instructors for our workshop program are volunteers. They may charge a materials fee for their classes, but are not otherwise compensated for their time and effort. For additional **information about our instructors**, please visit www.amfed.org/sfms

2008 SFMS WORKSHOP CLASS SCHEDULE

Workshop Staff

Kathy Morris, Director
P.O.Box 913, Tryon NC 28782
Phone 828-894-6303
Email: Klmorris45@hotmail.com

Wildacres Registrar Mrs. B. J. Gearhart
P. O. Box 36
Lebanon GA 30146-9998
Phone 770-479-0963
Email: waregistrar0809@yahoo.com

William Holland Registrar Denise Talbott
216 Springview St
Murphy NC 28906
Phone 828-494-7213
Email whregistrar@yahoo.com

Education Chair
Julia Larson
5297 Huntington St NE
St Petersburg FL 33703
Phone 727-522-1254
Email sfmsedchair@gmail.com

Classes with asterisk (*) have prerequisites. Check with instructor before registering.

SESSION ONE - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, June 8-14, 2008

Beading, traditional	jCase Leaser
Cabochons, beginning	Jerry Mason
Chainmaking, beg.	TBA
Enameling	Renee Wright
Glass fusing	Julia Larson
Lampwork, beginning	Cindy Reed
Opal cutting	Sara Lee Boyce
Scrimshaw techniques	Gino Deskins/Betty Porter
Silver, beginning #1	Dan Haga
Silver, beginning #2	Allen Jewell
Wire sculpture*	Diane Mason
Wirecraft, Beginning	Danny Griffin

SESSION TWO - WILDACRES MONDAY, August 18-24, 2008

Cabochons	Betty James
Faceting, beg	David Lonser
Cold Connection	Kim St Jean
Chainmaking, beginning	Roy Deere
Gem Ident/Appreciation	Ben Smith
Metalsmithing, Advanced*	Jeff Sheer
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis
PMC 1	Ken, Mary Ann Devos
Raku Beads, Pendants	Jim Cullen
Seed Bead Techniques	Vivian Heath
Silver, beginning	Nancy English
Wire, beginning	Rowan Rose

SESSION THREE - WILDACRES MONDAY, September 15-21

Cold Connections	Kim St Jean
Enameling	TBA
Chainmaking, advanced*	Roy Deere
Facet/Intarsia, beg	Tom Wilkie
Casting Finishing*	Gino Deskins
Opal Cutting	Sara Lee Boyce
PMC 2	Ken, Mary Ann Devos
Seed bead tech.	Roz Evans
Silver, beginning	Zane Purcell
Stained glass, beginning	Julia Larson
Wire Weaving*	Louise Coulson
Wire, knotting/braiding*	Don Coulson

SESSION FOUR - WILLIAM HOLLAND SUNDAY, October 12-18 (Julia Larson, Acting Director)

Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Chainmaking, Inter.*	Bill & Dee Conybear
Cold Connection	Kathy Morris
Faceting Two	David Corn
Fused Glass	Addy DiPietro
Gourd Carving	Pat Davis
Opal cutting	Joe DiPietro
Lost Wax Casting	John Iacullo
Digital Photography	Ken Kipnis
PMC	Pam Hall
Scrimshaw	Gino Deskins/Betty Porter
Seed Beading	Vivian Heath
Silver, beginning #1	Don & Ann Monroe
Silver, beginning #2	Dan Haga
Silver, intermediate*	Allen Jewell
Beginning Wire	Janet Corn

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

April 25, 26, 27, 2008

Friday, October 3, 4, 5, 2008

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

"Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced his plans to hold two separate three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during **April 25, 26, 27, 2008** and during **October 3, 4, 5, 2008**. He will have the mountain open for collecting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 p.m. each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL!

(Any group can reserve Graves Mountain, contact caretaker, Clarence Norman, Jr (Junior) for more information.

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. - 706-359-3862 (his business) or 706-359-2381 (his home) Website: <http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

Graves Mountain Code of Conduct!

Park your vehicle in the designated area(at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).

NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved.

ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.

The field trip leader(s) have final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.

Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)

STAYAWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!! NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!

NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting

March 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Several guests and new members were introduced.

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report and also reported on sales of aluminum cans and some copper, reminding everyone to save their aluminum beverage cans. Cans may be dropped off at her house or at the clubhouse. Please rinse them first.

Sue reported on the income from the show, which ran around \$7 thousand. Some bills have not yet been paid.

Sue announced a date for the next yard sale which she - against her better judgment - has agreed to hold again at her home. She **seriously** needs people to help her set up, because this is the most time consuming and labor intensive part. The date was announced for April 24-26, with set up on the 23rd. **NOTE: THE DATE HAS SINCE BEEN CHANGED TO THE PRIOR WEEK, FRIDAY, APRIL 18-SUNDAY, APRIL 20, WITH SET UP ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17.** Please contact Sue and let her know if you will help on ANY of these dates, but especially on Thursday for set up.

She mentioned that there are still T-shirts with our SGAMS logo for sale for \$5, and said if anyone needs a name tag, they are \$3.50. Let Sue or Evie Loster, the membership chair, know if you need badges.

President Bill Schmidt announced that we have been approved for our Certificate of Occupancy for the clubhouse. We are now legal! There are some minor issues to be cleared with the environmental permit, which is separate from the construction permit, but these will be taken care of next week. **THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF HOUSEKEEPING THINGS TO BE DONE ON THE INSIDE BEFORE WE CAN OPEN IT TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP. Bill is at the clubhouse on Mondays and Tuesdays between 3 and 8 p.m. PLEASE come by during this time if you can help.** The machine shop IS open on Tuesday evenings, although the new wheels haven't been ordered. This will be discussed at the April board meeting.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Nancy Hoppe, a registered gemologist and Master Appraiser in Residence at USF, gave a wonderful program on appraising gems and jewelry. For many of us, it was a real eye-opener. For starters, did you know that having a gem or piece of jewelry appraised by the seller is NOT recommended? It's a conflict of interest. Did you know the appraiser needs to know **why** you are seeking an appraisal? Is it for insurance purposes? Or do you want it valued as part of an estate? Watch for a separate story on this fascinating program will appear in a future Rock-a-Gram.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of Board Meeting

April 1, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. In addition to President Bill Schmidt, board members present were: Sue Hazelden, Peter Palmer, Homer Rankhorn, Walt Upman, Evie Loster, Julia Larson and Pat Davis. NOTE: Pat Davis will be the 3-year director next year, but was nominated and approved to fill the vacant board position for the rest of this year. Members present were Walt Larson, Martha Rankhorn, and Debbie Bremer, newsletter editor.

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted by the board for audit. She reported that all construction expenses are now paid. She mentioned that we already have payment in full from one of the dealers for next year's show.

Bill Schmidt gave the show report and attendance statistics. There were 837 paid admissions this year, a 20% increase over last year. We also had a lot of folks coming back from previous days. Although our expenses increased over last year, we actually made more money because of the increased attendance. The notice on Channel 9 Neighborhood News certainly helped. He had the Min Reg contract for 2009, and the board voted to approve it and authorized Sue Hazelden to pay the deposit. The show will be March 6-8, 2009, with set up on March 5.

Bill also said, the environmental permit has been approved, with the installation of a sprinkler system and replacement of some of the ixoras.

New business: Bill received a call from a Cub Scout leader who is looking for someone to help the scouts with their geology badges. Julia Larson volunteered and will contact Lou Codol or others to get some assistance. He also received a call from a member of the Withalacoochee club who has some equipment he wants to sell. He may drop by the general meeting this month, or advertise the items in the Rock-A-Gram.

Equipment needs were discussed at length. Sue suggested formation of an equipment committee to assess exactly what is needed. The board voted to authorize them to prioritize the needs and place the orders. They will meet at the clubhouse next week. The equipment committee consists of Bill Schmidt, Pat Davis and Peter Palmer, with Lou Codol voted on the committee in *absentia*.

The revised cabbing room rules were also discussed at length. These had been proposed in 2007, but tabled until the construction was completed. Julia will send the amended rules to the board for their approval. They will be published in the May Rock-A-Gram. The new fee for equipment use is **\$2.50 per hour**, which must be paid *before* using the room. Sue mentioned that someone contacted her about a new, unused Facetron which may be available for sale at a much reduced price. The board authorized her to check further into this and report back. Refurbishing our current one was also discussed.

The remaining clubhouse projects were discussed. The board voted to authorize purchase of exterior fiberglass doors for the breezeway and the cabbing room and to have the locks re-keyed so they all open with a single key. A list of all remaining projects is posted inside the clubhouse. Most involve only minimal physical labor.

Sue and Julia volunteered to start classes in Gem Trees and Fused Glass later in April. As soon as the new wheels, etc. are installed, Bill and Pat will advertise cabbing classes. The fee for classes is also \$2.50 per hour. The instructors will volunteer their time, but may charge a small materials fee to cover their cost.

Bill reminded the board that anyone was eligible to attend classes or use the equipment, but they **MUST** join the club to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Rock-A-Gram

**WE THANK OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE
ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO VISIT AND PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.**

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ROCK-A-GRAM

*This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 13254, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-3254*

This Society is a member of the *SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.*, and its parent society, the *AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.* The general purpose of this society is to promote popular interest in education and research in the earth sciences and lapidary arts, and to cooperate with other similar organizations.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April at 7:30 p.m., at the Azalea Adult Center; 1600 72nd Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida. December and May meetings are special meetings and a time and place will be announced in this bulletin. The public is cordially invited to attend the general membership meetings.

Dues: \$15.00 single or \$20.00 couple/family; due annually each September

All exchange bulletins should be sent to the Rock-A-Gram editor.

Feel free to copy any material from this bulletin, but please list all byline credits.

ROCK-A-GRAM (Official Bulletin)

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Debra Bremer, Editor

1349 Lakeview Road

Clearwater, FL 33756

Clubhouse Activities

Board Meeting:
(September - May)
First Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

Cabbing Classes:
Mondays, 3-8 p.m.

Clubhouse Maintenance:
TBA

Faceting, Silversmithing,

Wire Wrapping Classes:
By appointment