

ROCK-A-GRAM



April, 2011



Volume 42, No. 8, Page 1

General Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2011

Location:

J. W. Cate Recreation Center
5801 22nd Avenue North
St. Petersburg
7-9 p.m.

Program

“An Introduction to Geology”

Featuring: Professor John J. Renton

The program for our meeting is a DVD presentation from Great Courses. Professor Renton has taught for over 40 years at West Virginia University. The topic will be the formation of the Hawaiian Islands and Yellowstone Park. Come learn how volcanic activity has formed both the Hawaiian islands and the area included in Yellowstone Park. Also, learn what volcanic activity may have in store for the area around the Yellowstone Park.

Field Trips Planned—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Leona Sheffield has arranged the following field trip.

April 30th: Peace River

Escorted tour of Peace River with Mark Renz, \$35/person. You must call Mark 239-368-3252, on the 29th to confirm reservation, meeting location, and time for 30th. (Tentatively scheduled to meet at Burger King, Hwy 70 in Arcadia 10 a.m.).

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

Board Members

Pat Davis, President... .. 727-323-2147

Email: outtamygourd@yahoo.com

Donna Remsnyder, Vice President. 727-692-6006

Email: dsr75@verizon.net

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer 727-321-5732

Email: sujagems1@aol.com

Julia Larson, Recording Sec... .. 727-522-1254

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Donna Mallory, 3 yr. Director 941-776-9055

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Dave Watson, 2 yr. Director. 727-541-2917

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George Comas, 1 yr. Director. 727-526-7176

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Bill Schmidt, 1 yr. Director 727-822-8279

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Debbie Bremer, Editor 727-298-0061

Rock-A-Gram Newsletter

Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com

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:** 7:00 p.m., 1st Thursday 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. **General Meetings:** 7:00 p.m., 3rd Thursday of each month; September - May, at J. W. Cate Recreation Center, 5801 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL.

President's Message

A big **THANK YOU** to *Charles Woolheater*. Once again he has been to town, left again and managed to help where it was really needed. In between taking stuff to and from the show he installed the new door on the cabbng room bathroom. As many of you know that bathroom has been one of my pet projects and I'm delighted with every bit of progress.

If you have a pet project or idea you would like to work on, please feel free to jump in. The progress SGAMS makes is totally due to the people who step up and take an active part. Donna Mallory is looking for people to help put together a scrapbook of this year's activities. Julia Larson is working with instructors to get several new classes started before we break for the summer. There is also a need for people to help with electrical and bookkeeping projects.

Volunteers are wonderful people and it's not possible to have too many of them!

Pat Davis, President

Nominations for 2011-12:

Pat Davis, President
George Comas, Vice-President
Sue Hazelden, Treasurer
Julia Larson, Recording Secretary
Dave Schwebel, Corresponding Secretary

Donna Remsnyder, 3 Year Director
Donna Mallory, 2 Year Director
Dave Watson, 1 Year Director
Bucky Joseph, 1 Year Director

Voting will be done at the April general meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Installation of officers ceremony will be at our May annual dinner.

We Still Are Collecting Aluminum Cans



Bring in your cans, and give to Sue Hazelden at the General Meeting. If you would like to volunteer to collect these cans for Sue at the general meetings, please let her know. Your help would be greatly appreciated

Please note: Do not put cat food cans with the aluminum cans, unless they are aluminum. Test them with a magnet, if not sure, most of them are not. Also, no aluminum foil or bottle caps.

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer
727-321-5732
Email: sujagems1@aol.com

Welcome New Members

**Bob Parmenter, Louis and Carol Donder,
Bisi Adeshina**

NOTEWORTHY APRIL BIRTHAYS

By: *Diane Dare*

William Hallows Miller

Mr. Miller was born April 6, 1801 in Llandoverly, Wales.

A crystallographer, he is known for creating a system to describe the shape and position of faces on a crystal by using a set of three whole numbers. The numbers are derived from the axial intersections with the plane of the crystal face. This coordinate system of mapping the shapes and surfaces of crystals, called the Miller Indices, is often shown in drawings of crystals. William Miller died in 1880.

Jean Baptiste Biot was born April 21, 1774 in Paris, France.

A professor of mathematics and of astronomy, in 1804 he made a balloon ascent to a height of three miles to investigate Earth's atmosphere and magnetic fields. He studied optical activity, and invented a polariscope to study the polarization of light. Making a

comparative study of calcite and aragonite he and a partner concluded that while the two minerals have the same chemical composition, they have a different arrangement of "molecules" and thus are physically different substances.

The mica variety biotite is named for him. Jean Biot died February 3, 1852 in Paris.

Charles Francis Richter was born April 26, 1900 in Hamilton, Ohio.

A seismologist, he kept a seismograph in his living room in Los Angeles. He was the creator of the Richter Scale, which measures the strength of earthquake waves. The amount of energy released is related to how much the earth moves. Each point on the scale represents a thirty-fold increase in energy over the previous point and a ten-fold increase in movement and strength. Charles Richter died in 1985.

References used include:

Illustrated Almanac of Science, Technology and Invention, by Raymond L. Francis (1997, Plenum Press)
Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia (2002)
Random House Webster's Dictionary of Scientists (1998)
"Who's Who in Mineral Names" by Richard S. Mitchell in *Rocks and Minerals*, November/December 1985.

Saturday Cabbing Schedule

We have volunteers to open the cabbing room on Saturday mornings but there hasn't been an overwhelming response to this opportunity. If you want to cab on Saturdays please call and let these instructors know if you want to use the clubhouse. I'm sure they have other things to do if no one wants to cab at that time.

Lou Codol: 544 3973
1st and 4th Saturdays of the month

Dave Schwebel: 547-0364
2nd Saturday

George Comas: 526 7176
3rd Saturday

Ant Hill Garnets

By: Gayland Graves



Photo: Mt. Lily Gems,
Robert Drummond

Arizona pyrope garnet is called ant hill garnet because ants bring up the smaller crystals from below ground and deposit them in the ant hill when building or remodeling.

Ant hill garnets are recognized as possessing the finest bright ruby-red color of the garnet family. During the 1800s Navajos in this locale used the water-worn and rounded ant hill garnet crystals as bullets. This use had both a practical

side (the stones were there, and free) and an emotional appeal\ the Navajos believed the blood-red color helped produce fatal wounds.

Ant hill garnets occur in a remote section of the Navajo Nation in Arizona. The gems have never been mined commercially because there aren't enough of them. That means these gems are beautiful...and rare. Gems over a carat are even more rare! The world supply of these gems depends on those living nearby who collect a few stones after the occasional rainstorm and trade them at the local store.

The Four Corners area of northeastern Arizona derives its name from the fact that there the state borders of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado meet. Nowhere else in the United States can a person simultaneously stand in four states at one time. Monument Valley, the site of awe-inspiring sandstone pinnacles, spans the Arizona-Utah border, not far from the four corners. Just south of Monument Valley is the town of Kayenta and Garnet Ridge. Gem-quality garnets have weathered from the underlying intrusive rock and can be found scattered throughout the area. This location is on the Navajo reservation and is strictly off limits to non-tribal collectors.

Most of the garnets are smaller than a pea, are smooth, and rounded. Often they are referred to as ant hill garnets because the tiniest garnets are thrown out on the surface of the ground as ants excavate their nests. The garnets are collected by the Navajo and sold in bulk for the gem trade. Ninety percent of the material is the deep ruby-red color of pyrope garnet, but small quantities of rhodolite and spessartine garnets are also found. Although the hue of this pyrope is gorgeous, the saturation is so great as to make cut stones over a carat or two in size too dark. Nevertheless, if properly cut, Four Corner pyrope garnets are stunning gems.

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
December, 2010
www.AMFED.org

2010-11 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

California Federation May 13-15 Anderson, CA	Rocky Mountain Federation June 24-26 Colorado Springs, CO
Eastern Federation July 7-10 Syracuse, NY	South Central Federation December 11-12 DeRidder, LA
Midwest Federation September 8-11 Toledo, OH	Southeast Federation TBA
Northwest Federation July 29-31	

The ants carry up stones excavated from the soil they dig in, and can amass quite a collection over time. Such ant hills are a place where the Lakota historically sought out sacred, perfectly round stones used in making ceremonial rattles or for personal tokens. Elsewhere in the Badlands and Black Hills, we found smaller, active ant hills where tiny shells and even tinier garnets were being brought up by the ants. The treasures returned to the surface by the tireless work of ants collect very slowly. How many billions of ant hours went into making the massive fossil ant hill, I wonder?"

-- from *Bulletin of the Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club*, December 2010 via *The Rockhounder*, January 2011. *Hound's Howl*, January 2011, (Hound's Howl editor has adapted the title from the original.)



Photo: ant and its treasures from
www.gemscape.com/facets/garnet1.htm

Source: Hound's Howl-8, January 2011

Graves Mountain “Rock Swap and Dig” April 29—May 1, 2011

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during 2011. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm 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 pm 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!

Contact Information: Junior Norman - 706-359-3862 or 706-359-2381

Directions: From Washington Georgia, drive 11 miles on SR-378, or from the Hardee's in Lincolnton, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378. Look for a sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the south side of the road.

Motels and Camping: Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161; Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-3124; Elijah Clark State Park, 706- 359-3458 / 800-864-7275 ■

Source: The Hound's Howl, Aiken Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society, Aiken, South Carolina, March, 2011, Volume 49, No 3

Julie's Page

By Julia Larson, Pinellas Geological Society

I like words. If I hear a new word, I will turn it over and over in my mind, savoring the sound and the definition. I am a great fan of the Wordsmith web site, which recently featured a word that was new to me. The word was **ventifact**, which is a stone shaped, polished or faceted by wind.

That got me thinking about other interesting rock-related words, and I will share a few of them in this month's page.

Astrobleme is a word derived from the Greek for "star wound." It is an impact feature formed by a big (building-sized) meteorite. The Meteor Crater in Arizona is one example.

An **impactite** is a terrestrial rock that has been radically deformed by the intense heat, pressure and shock waves of a meteorite impact. There are many types of impactites. Here are a few:

A meteorite impact, volcanic activity, landslides and other

geologic activity sometimes cements smaller terrestrial rocks together, forming **breccia**. This type of rock is usually composed of sharp, angular fragments that can be from widely differing eras.

Meteorites that contain abundant silicate inclusions, usually gem-quality olivine crystals, in a nickel-iron matrix are called **pallasites**.

Moldovites are emerald green impact glass from the Czech Republic.

Similar to obsidian, **tektites** are black and glassy, but these meteorite glasses have crater-like features on the surface. They come in many shapes, from spheres, drops, buttons, even dumbbells. The most abundant tektites are **indochinites** from a meteorite strewnfield that covers parts of China, Thailand and Cambodia.

Turn these words over in your mind and see what kinds of images they conjure.

-- from *Outcroppings*, January 2011 ■

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
GLENDON QUARRY—North Carolina
Saturday, April 23, 2011 - 8 a.m. till 3p.m. sharp!

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE: After you have supplied all of the required information in an email back to the SFMS Field Trip Committee [sfms@amfed.org], the Committee will assign a registration number and resend your email back to you as your admission ticket to this field trip. Each registration number is assigned to only one collector. If your form has two or more registration numbers, then that is the number of individuals allowed in to the field trip on that registration form. Also, R.T. Vanderbilt Co. will require everyone to fill-in and sign a company liability release form before entry.

ONCE THE 120th REGISTRATION NUMBER IS ASSIGNED, THIS FIELD TRIP WILL BE CLOSED. YOU MUST BRING YOUR ACCEPTED REGISTRATION FORM TO BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE QUARRY. IF YOU CAN NOT MAKE THIS FIELD TRIP, PLEASE SEND US A CANCELLATION EMAIL .

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

This field trip is open to members of SFMS affiliated clubs which have paid third party liability insurance through the SFMS/EFMLS or other insurers. A link to the current list of paid clubs can be found on the SFMS website at the "What's New" webpage.

Only list related family members, couples, and significant others - all non-related individuals must submit a separate form.

NO children under the age of 12! Please list the ages of all individuals who are under the age of 18.

REGISTRATON:

1. Last Name, First Name
2. Address/City/State
3. Phone Number
4. Email Address

SFMS affiliated club: (only SFMS clubs which have current liability insurance [SFMS/EFMLS/Private] are allowed to attend.) (Please answer ALL of the above items or your registration will be returned!)

Reply to this email with your completed registration information or send your registration back to sfms@amfed.org

Glendon Quarry code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed in the quarry because of all the dangers involved. **CHILDREN 12 and older WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THIS EVENT IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION!**
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- ALL Standard Minerals employees have final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- HAND TOOLS ONLY!
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS and do not cross any taped boundary markers!!

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OUT OF THE QUARRY BY 3pm sharp.

SFMS Field Trip Committee: Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

E-Mail jimflora@windstream.net

**Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting
February 28, 2011**

The March board meeting was held on this date because the first Thursday was the date for setup for the annual show. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were: board members; Pat Davis, Bill Schmidt, Dave Watson, Dave Schwebel, Sue Hazelden, Donna Remsnyder, George Comas, and Donna Mallory. Also present were: Donna Sapp (Membership Chair) and Bucky Joseph.

The February minutes were accepted as published.

There were no reports from the corresponding secretary, the education chair or the membership chair. Bill reported for the building committee that the lights in the kitchen have been installed and are working properly.

Sue gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted for audit.

Equipment: Dave Schwebel reported the 4" trim saw and the new blade on the big saw are in working order. There was discussion regarding a couple pieces of equipment that are not being used because they are in need of repair. The board voted to put them on eBay.

Nominating Committee: Donna Mallory listed the slate of officers for 2011-12. They are: Pat Davis, President; George Comas, Vice President; Donna Mallory, 2 year Director; Sue Hazelden, Treasurer; Bucky Joseph, 1 year Director; Dave Watson, 1 year Director; Dave Schwebel, Corresponding Secretary; and Julia Larson, Recording Secretary. (Note: following the board meeting, Donna Remsnyder was nominated for 3 year Director.) The slate will be presented to the general membership at the March 17 meeting; voting will take place at the April 21 meeting.

The program for the March 17th meeting will be the ranger from Honeymoon Island State Park.

Finance Committee: The current president, vice president and treasurer will meet in March 22 to formulate the budget for 2011-12. Equipment needs/wants should be forwarded to a committee member prior to that date. Pat feels we need two additional cabbing machines and another faceting machine. Donna Remsnyder is handling the purchase of four tool kits for use by silver students.

Show: Bill Schmidt discussed the upcoming show. Sue said, we still need items for the grand prize drawing. Several board members volunteered to donate. Show dates for 2012 are March 2, 3, and 4. The contract with Minnreg has been signed.

Unfinished Business: Donna Remsnyder gave a web site update and suggested classified ads should be open to all, with a small charge. This was tabled, as was discussion of our show advertising stating both an admission and a donation charge. Donna Remsnyder also brought up having a Facebook page. After some discussion, Donna agreed to research this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Special Board Meeting
March 5, 2011

At the close of the show, the board met to vote on applications received during the three days of the show. Accepted for membership were: **Rob & Carol Hume, Lucile Cobb, Jane & Vincent Collie, Margie Colwell, Charles Connors, Larry Deneman & Jeff Hudson, Pamela Fink, Nancy Graver, Barbara & Jerry Harrington, Norman & Dawn Hefland, Dana & Greg Kovac, Jerome Ruel, Tammie Smith, and late renewal Stephen & Andrea Kryston.**

The following individuals won the prize drawings at the show:

Grand Prize: Agatized Coral Head – **David Hudson**
Citrine pendant – **Susan Hamill**

Stained glass panel – **Bill Medford**
Opal pendant – **Anna Preisack**

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting
March 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. There were 26 members and three guests present.

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report and also reported on income and attendance for the show.

Show chair, Bill Schmidt, also noted that attendance was down a bit from 2010; however, the dealers were extremely pleased with both the turnout and their sales.

Correspondence: Pat reported an email from someone in Louisiana who wanted to trade some petrified wood. Anyone interested in additional information should contact Pat.

Nominations for 2011-12: Pat introduced the slate of officers for next year. They are: Pat Davis, president; George Comas, vice-president; Sue Hazelden, treasurer, Julia Larson, recording secretary; Dave Schwebel, corresponding secretary; Dave Watson and Bucky Joseph, 1 year directors; Donna Mallory, 2 year director; Donna Remsnyder, 3 year director. Voting will be done at the April general meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Equipment: New capping machine; door to bathroom in garage, thanks to Charles Woolheater.

Leona Sheffield reported on upcoming field trips for the Pinellas Geological Society and invited all Suncoast members to attend. Trips include: Mulberry Phosphate Museum and dig, March 26, Peace River car expedition, April 30, and Honeymoon Island, May 28. See Leona for details, if you are interested.

Program: Geology of Honeymoon Island, Ranger Tim Marshall. Some notes: there are 160 state parks in Florida. Pinellas area is the most densely populated area south of New York City. There were 1.2 million visitors to our state parks last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Following the general meeting, board members met to vote on several membership applications. New members are: **Bob Parmenter**; and **Louis and Carol Donder**.

Submitted by: Julia Larson, Recording Secretary.

Clubhouse Class Schedules

Faceting: Mondays 6-9 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon

Cabbing: Mondays & Wednesdays 7-9 p.m.

Fused Glass: Tuesdays (First and Third only) 7-9 p.m.
Fifth Tuesday, if there should be one.

Loop-In-Loop Chain Making: Contact Barbara via email at watknots@gmail.com.



THERE WILL BE A SIGN UP SHEET AT THE GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL CLASSES.

NEW CLASSES STARTING!

There are two new classes starting this month and next.

KUMIHIMO (a Japanese weaving technique) with Sue Black will begin Saturday, April 30. Supply cost for the single-session class is \$35.00, which includes: the disk, bobbins, and fabric. Clubhouse fee is an additional \$2.50 per hour for the three-hour class. The first class covers the technique using only fabric. Advanced classes in bead weaving (two or three sessions) will be offered at a later date and will cost less, since students will already have the disk and bobbins and can purchase their own beads. Each class is limited to four students. Contact Sue Black at 345-8994 or email sueblack@tampabay.rr.com to register, or sign up at the meeting.

Class Dates	
Saturday, April 30	9 a.m.—Noon
Friday, May 13	Morning or Afternoon
Thursday, May 19	2-5 p.m.
Classes are also available on Tuesday evenings. Call for info.	

WIRE WRAPPING class will start Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. - noon. Dave Watson will teach the basics of wrapping a cabochon with copper wire. This is a single session class – you will go home with a wrapped cab ready to wear. Cost for the class is \$16.00, which includes \$2.50/hour for clubhouse use. Contact Dave at 541-2971 or email him at bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com to register, or sign up at the meeting. Preference will be given to those who signed up at the show in March.

METAL WORKING introductory class with Donna Remsnyder will start in May. The class will consist of two, two-hour sessions, Wednesday, May 4th and 11th, 6-8 p.m. Students will learn how to saw, file, drill, and texture metal, as well as how to set a stone pendant using cold connection techniques. The \$25.00 cost includes all materials and the fee for clubhouse use. Students will have a set of tools assigned to them for class use and to take home to practice the skills learned in class. (Tools are the property of SGAMS, Inc., and must be returned to the club at the end of the second session.) The class is limited to four students. Call Donna at 692-6006 or email her at dsr75@verizon.net to register, or sign up at the meeting. Additional classes will be announced in the Rock-A-Gram.

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 7:00 p.m., at J.W. Cate Recreation Center, 5801 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg. 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 September - May

Board Meeting:

(September - May)

First Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Open:

Mondays, 7- 9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Faceting, Silversmithing, Fused Glass Classes

By appointment