

ROCK-A-GRAM



February, 2007



Volume 38, No.6, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center

1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg



Annual Auction

Members are asked to bring items to donate for auction. Items do not have to be hobby related, could be something you made, bought, etc. Donate something someone would want. No junk, please. This is a fun time, so bring your money, support our club, and get ready to bid!

AND

Election of New Officers

If your last name starts with A-M, please bring goodies to our meeting.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

David Cordes, President 727-443-4706
email: whisgyp@knology.net
1227-S Hillcrest Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33756

Bill Schmidt, Vice President 727-822-8279
3939 Porpoise Drive SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

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: juliamlarson@earthlink.net
5297 Huntington St. NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Walt Upman, Corr. Sec. 727-323-3935
3698 18th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Evie Loster, 3 yr. Director 727-821-7230
2150 23rd Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Terry Bogard, 2yr. Director 727-523-8046
email: Grandpaboggie@yahoo.com
15666-49th Street N. #1132
Clearwater, FL 33762

Gilbert Wegad, 1 yr. Director
1018 35th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

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, Phone: (727) 541-1291, 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.

Yard Sales and Aluminium Can Collection

Our club is about to finish what was started when we first purchased our new club house in 2001. Unfortunately our funds have diminished from that time, and we need to do some **SERIOUS** fundraising. I am willing to hold a yard sale at my home on **March 23rd and 24th**.

In order to do this, I need to ask you all to look into your cupboards, garages, attics or whatever, to find unneeded items that are suitable for resale. You can bring them to meetings, the clubhouse or to my home at 4823 14th Avenue North, several days before the sale. It would also be nice to have some volunteers to help me.

Can collecting can also generate funds. I have some large bags to put them in and I can lend the club my can crusher. Like the yard sale, you can bring cans in bags to the meetings, the clubhouse or to my home anytime (after calling me first.)

Our other fund raiser, the raffle at each meeting, has not generated very much money lately. We need for anyone winning a prize to bring one to the next meeting. It does not have to be a rock, but something someone else would like to have.

Won't you PLEASE help your club get back to the job of teaching classes, and bringin in new membership, to help in the running of this great organization?

Sue Hazelden



Happy Valentine's Day..

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
a local non-profit club proudly presents:
38th Annual

Gem & Mineral Show and Sale

March 2, 3, 4, 2007

Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CONTINUOUS WORKING DEMONSTRATIONS

- Bead Stringing
- Wirecraft
- Channel Work
- Gem Cutting



**DIAMONDS
EMERALDS
RUBIES
14K GOLD JEWELRY
DOOR PRIZES
EXHIBITS
AND
MUCH MORE....**

DIRECTIONS

- Minnreg Building
6340 126th Avenue No.
Largo
- From Tampa I-275 cross
Howard Franklin Bridge.
At exit 31B, take Ramp
(right) onto SR-688
(Ulmerton Rd) Merge
onto SR-686. Bear LEFT
(West) onto SR-688
(Ulmerton Rd) turn
LEFT (South-East)
onto US-19 N. Turn
RIGHT (West) onto
126th Ave N.
- From North on US 19
take 66th Street exit go to
126th Ave., turn left.

ADMISSION

Adults - \$5.00 good for all three days, children under 6 FREE
Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00

FEDERATION NEWS

Tips and Trips, Georgia Mineral Society, Feb. 2007
www.AMFED.org

2007 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation

June 15-17, 2007
Lancaster, CA

Eastern Federation

October 6-7, 2007
Newark, NY

Midwest Federation

August 11-12, 2007
Houghton, Michigan

Northwest Federation

August 3-5, 2007
Butte, MT

Rocky Mountain Federation

June 5-10, 2007
Roswell, NM

South Central Federation

Arlington, Texas
September 1-2, 2007

Southeast Federation

Gulf Coast of Mississippi
November 9-11, 2007

Upcoming Shows

Tips and Trips, Georgia Mineral Society, February, 2007

February 16-18: Vero Beach

Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society
33rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Vero Beach Community Center
Hours: 16th - 12-5 p.m.

17th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

18th - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

February 24-25: Jackson, MS

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society
Trade Mart Building, State Fairgrounds
I-55 and High Street

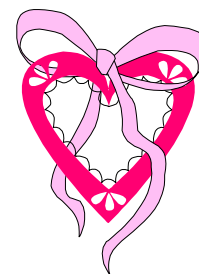
Hours: 24th - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

25th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

March 9-11: Augusta, GA

Aiken Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society
Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show
2200 Broad Street

www.homestead.com/aikengms





Reading Materials

Ancient Forests, a Closer Look at Fossil Wood

by: Frank Daniels, and Richard Dayvault.

Includes: Fossil Wood Structure and Identification; Wood to Stone; Fossil Woods of the Northwest, Southwest, Upper Interior West and Worldwide Locations; Museum and Special Collections; Hardwood Identification Aids; and Tree Name Index. Large format—(12x11.5), 456 pages, over 1600 color photographs. Hard cover only, \$89.95 + \$12 s/h.

Geodes, Nature's Treasures

by: Brad Cross and June Culp Zeitner

Hard cover, \$29.95 + \$5 s/h and soft cover, \$21.95 + \$5 s/h, 279 pages, 16 chapters.

Within the Stone, photography by: Bill Atkinson

"...From thousands of photographs, Atkinson has chosen seventy-two that have yielded the most striking, the most poetic, and the most ineffable images.

Seventy literary pieces commissioned from seven writers. ...In an appendix, mineralogy experts Si and Ann Frazier and Robert Hutchinson provide mineral commentary for each specimen." Hard Cover, \$39.95 + \$8.50 s/h, 180 pages. Published by: Browntrout Publishers 2004.

(Editor's note: these were seen on The Gem Shop website, www.thegemshop.com. Phone: 262-377-4666)

Other publications available for purchase:

Banded Agates, Origins and Inclusions by Roger Pabian; ***Petrified Wood, The World of Fossilized Wood, Cones, Ferns, and Cycads*** by Frank J. Daniels; ***The Lake Superior Agate, One Man's Journey*** by Scott Wolter; ***Is This an Agate?*** By Susan Robinson; ***Fairburn Agate, Gem of South Dakota*** by Roger Clark; ***The Beauty of Banded Agates*** by Michael Carlson.

Excalibur Mineral Corporation is advertising the ***New Photographic Guide to Minerals II***. The cost is \$49.95 (plus \$5.00 shipping). The single CD has 4170 valid minerals described, with more than 6700 mineral images. For those who missed Edition I, you can buy both CDs for \$89.95 plus the \$5 shipping. www.excaliburmineral.com or 914-739-1134.

Source: *Hounds Howl*, December 2006

Rock Hunting in a Weird Way

Hound's Howl, November 2006 - Aiken GMFS

Yeah, yeah I know that it is getting a little late in the year to talk about rock hunting techniques. However, after coming back from a trip to a really large gravel pit, I would like to pass on one of my rock hunting techniques.

When I go out to hunt rocks where I may be wandering over a large area I always carry a bundle of surveyors flags with me. These are the small (Say 3" by 3") bright colored flags on an 18" length of wire that people use to mark underground pipes, wires and cables. They are available at places like Lowe's or Home Depot, etc. for about \$5.00 per bundle of 50. The first thing I do with my flags is to take a big black magic marker and number them consecutively. Then I roll 25 of them into a bundle and stick them in my rock hunting sack. What I use them for is to mark a path for myself so that I will not get lost when I am in the wilds. I also use them to mark stacks of rocks that I collect so that I will not have to carry these rocks all over the place while I am looking for more.

I always pick up my flags on the last pass through the area. That way you do not litter the area and I do not have to purchase more flags every trip I take.

—Tech Talk #13 By Val Carver, Minnesota Mineral Club. Modified slightly From the October 2006 Rock Rustler's News via The Rockhouser, Nov. 2006.

...And Another Kansas Meteorite

Meteorite hunters Steve Arnold and Philip Mani and a team of scientists using new ground-penetrating radar found a 154-lb meteorite that measures 18 by 12 by 12 inches. The meteorite was found in a wheat field outside of Greensburg, Kansas in an area known as the Brenham field or Brenham fall. The meteorite was buried 4 feet underground and was found approximately ¼ mile from where, just last year, Arnold and Mani had found the world's largest pallasite meteorite, a 1,400 pound monster.

—from *The Golden Nugget*, November 2006

Makeshift Rulers

Makeshift rulers: A quarter is 1 inch across. A dollar bill is six inches long. So that's 2 bucks a foot in paper, but 3 bucks a foot in change. (From Eagle, 6/23/01 via The Badger's Diggin's, 06/06)

. . . And Weights

Have you wished you could tell the weight of a stone easily? Well, Ray Kopman gives us such a ready reference. U.S. Coins weigh approximately as follows: Dime – 11 carats; Penny – 15 carats; Nickel – 25 carats; Quarter – 28 carats; Half-dollar – 56 carats; Silver dollar – 133 carats. (More on measures – Troy Ounce is 31.1035 grams and an Avoir Ounce is 28.3495 grams.) (From Rock Rustler's News/The Mirror 01/93 via Stoney Statements, 11/98)

Cold Connections - New Workshop Class

This year our workshops will offer a new class called Cold Connections. For those of you who like metal work but don't want to solder, this class is for you.



Cold Connection is the art of combining metals (copper, silver, gold, tin, aluminum, and others) into a project of fine jewelry. From start to finish, you will enjoy learning riveting, wiring, grommets, and all the different ways of Cold (no soldering) Connecting into a piece of fine jewelry. You will truly enjoy this class and you are guaranteed to come out with several elegant projects.

Cold Connections can be used with lapidary, bead work, other metal work, fused glass and other media to produce stunning effects. Classes will be taught by Kim St. Jean (Wildacres) and Kathy Morris and Jo Harrison (William Holland). If you're looking for something new and exciting, this class is for you. Sign up soon, as classes will fill up quickly.

Be sure to check the SFMS website regularly, as the schedules will continue to be updated throughout the workshop season.

Julia Larson
SFMS Education Chair



Please remember to bring those stamps to the meeting. Stamps must be either off the paper or neatly trimmed with 1/4" border around the stamp. discard any stamps that are torn or defaced in any manner. To remove stamps, wet envelope with a little dish soap and warm water, stamp will fall off. Place stamp upside down on paper towel to dry. Thank you.

**2007-08
Board of Directors Nominees**

The nominating committee has finalized the slate of board members for the coming year. They are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| President | Dave Cordes |
| Vice President | Bill Schmidt |
| Treasurer | Sue Hazelden |
| Recording Secretary | Julia Larson |
| Corresponding Secretary | Walt Upman |
| 3 Year Director | Homer Rankhorn |
| 2 Year Director | Evie Loster |
| 1 Year Director | Terry Bogard |
| Past President | Sue Black |

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of General Meeting
January 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Sue Hazelden presented the treasurer's report.

Dave Cordes reminded everyone that on Saturday, January 20, club members would be putting together the grab bags for the show. Help will be needed.

Bill Schmidt, also talked about the show and asked members to hand out flyers in the community as they go about. He suggested various locations such as mobile home park and condominium club houses, laundry facilities, etc.

Dave spoke about the club house situation. The contractor was ready to back out because of health problems, but asked that he be given until Monday, January 22, to give us his final decision. Dave has already been talking with someone else about taking over.

**THE CLUB'S ANNUAL AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING.
MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING ITEMS TO DONATE. ITEMS DO NOT
NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE HOBBY-RELATED.**

Following the business part of the meeting, Sue Hazelden gave a program on Herkimer Diamonds. She and her late husband Jack, took many trips, and spent many hours digging for these treasures, which they turned into beautiful jewelry, and breath-taking specimens.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

From notes provided by Evie Loster

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of Special Board Meeting
January 30, 2007

A special board meeting was called for 7:30 p.m. to discuss the clubhouse renovation project, which Mr. Killion has agreed to see through to completion. Mr. Killion was at the meeting, along with Dave Cordes, Sue Hazelden, Evie Loster, Bill Schmidt, and Terry Bogard.

Mr. Killion, who is still waiting for his license renewal to come through, said that once construction starts, it will take about six weeks to complete. He will be able to start immediately upon receiving it. If the actual cost comes in lower than expected, he will pass the savings on to the club.

A number of items were discussed by Mr. Killion and the board members, including electrical, plumbing, and exterior changes. He also mentioned the dust factor and suggested everything inside be covered as securely as possible. Club members can do this before construction starts. Using bottled water will eliminate having to install a water fountain.

We do not, as yet, have a written contract, but Sue will get Mr. Schuh, the attorney who has been helping us pro bono, to work on this.

The following motion was made:

Contingent upon; (1) getting the contract approved by the attorney under the terms discussed on this date (1/30/0) at the stated cost of \$30,500; and (2) Mr. Killion's attempting to secure a backup contractor to complete the work according to the terms in his (Mr. Killion's) absence, President Dave Cordes be granted the board's authority to sign the contract and notice of the commencement of work.

The motion was seconded and approved in a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting
February 6, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were: Dave Cordes, Sue Black, Sue Hazelden, Terry Bogard, Debbie Bremer, Evie Loster, and Julia Larson.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted for audit.

Sue Hazelden asked to amend the January board meeting notes regarding the donation from Tom and Gert McWilliams. Mention of the beautiful rocks was inadvertently omitted. In addition, to the stamps and videos, Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams also donated a number of high quality rocks to be sold at the club's show in March. We apologize for this omission.

Show news: Sue Black has another potential vendor. The board agreed to turn over five of the club's tables for this vendor, since the club will not have as much for sale this year. Herschel and Joan Jones took all leftover rocks for their shop in Mississippi, which was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. The need for laborers, a trailer and driver and setup details were discussed. Terry volunteered to drive. Club members are reminded to volunteer to fill display cases for the show.

Clubhouse news: Sue Hazelden is still waiting for a sample contract from the attorney. She said the insurance company has dropped our wind damage coverage, due to the age of the building. Options were discussed and the issue was tabled until we have more information.

Sue Hazelden announced that she will be having a yard sale to benefit the club on March 23, and 24. She asked that club members donate nice items that will bring in a good price. She also welcomes help from club members. (See related item elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 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:

TBA

Clubhouse Maintenance:

TBA

Faceting, Silversmithing,

Wire Wrapping Classes:

By appointment