

ROCK-A-GRAM



March, 2007



Volume 38, No.7, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center

1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg



PROGRAM

Amber - What, Why, Where

Long time multi-club member, Leona Sheffield, will give a program on her favorite mineral. Leona became interested in amber after meeting her husband. She has followed Hugh all over the United States to digs for some 12 years. There will be specimens, jewelry, some red amber, some Russian, and antique necklaces.

YARD SALE, yes, it is the week after our meeting, **March 23rd & 24th**, and there is still time to donate items. **ALUMINUM CANS**: Please keep saving your aluminum cans, we need all that we can get! This is an ongoing project. I will have a box or bag at the meeting to put your cans in. Please help YOUR club.

Sue Hazelden

If your last name starts with N-Z, 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.

Dear Members:

By the early indications, this past weekend we had one of our most successful shows in years. Sue Hazelton will have the final numbers for us at the Board Meeting. You will read about it in this newsletter, and hear about the numbers at the upcoming General Meeting. I want to take this opportunity to emphatically thank Sue Hazelden, Wilda Bisset, Lou Codol, and Sue Black, long standing stalwarts for club longevity and prosperity. Bill Schmidt has become a champion extraordinaire for club events and the clubhouse. His work both at the clubhouse, and for this event, raises the hope there is a group of younger members who will carry the club banner for years to come. We can't forget to thank the demonstrators who showed interested attendees the various facets (no pun intended) of our hobby and craft: Julia Larson; Gil Wegand; Sue Black; Mary Abel; Barb Watson; and others. Our Board members, who helped to set up, work in club booths or the entry door, and then be there for the work to tear everything down: Evie Loster and her granddaughter Jacie; Terry Bogard; Homer Rankhorn. Club members: Peter Palmer, and Chris Westbrook. Rose and Gene LaBranche for their help and use of their truck and trailer. There are more. **Thank You Very Much** to all those mentioned, and those not, for being there. YOU made this year's show absolutely Great!

Dave Cordes, President

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to thank **Sue Black** for working hard to find more dealers to squeeze into the show. It certainly helped to make the show a success.

Sue Hazelden

I would like to thank **Bill Schmidt** for taking over the job of Show Chairman. As one who has been there done that! I can appreciate the GREAT JOB that he did. The dealers were happy with proof of our advertising. The poster at the door listing the different dealers was a nice touch. This is not a job that starts in January or February this is a job that starts now for next year. I hope that more people will become involved with the different committee's for next years show.

Thanks Bill for a successful show.

Sue Black



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for your
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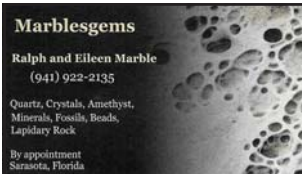


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Looking forward to seeing you next year.

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
(Photographs provided by Julia Larson)
Article published in Lodestar, February, 2007.*

Show News

It's over! The 2007 Gem and Mineral show is in the books. It was a great show!

To start things off we increased from 13 to 16 dealers. Our attendance was up from last year and it matched the 2005 show.

Monies are looking good but, not all of the bills are in. We tried and received free advertising in newspapers and websites for the first time. I took phone calls from those ads asking for more information and one person who missed the show wanted to know when our next one was.

The new business card ads were well received by members and some even made it back to the ticket booth as discounts.

There are lots of members who helped with labor, giving out information, entertainment, selling tickets, raffles, rocks, and demonstrating. This was just during the four days of the show.

The work before hand included labor in cleaning, fixing, sorting, pricing, posting fliers, print jobs, phone calls, tons of emails and many, many decisions. Too many people helped out to get listed here but I hope to speak to each one of you soon. Thank you all dedicated members. Special thanks to Pat Davis who chaired and arranged for the display cases to get filled, and to Mary Able who chaired and arranged the demonstrators.

By the way, the next show is scheduled for March 7, 8, 9 of 2008. Preparation has already started. We are waiting for the venue contract to arrive, the ads are scheduled for updating, searching for free ads will be on going all year, and signage is being done now. Speaking of dedicated members, Sue Black has agreed to be the Dealer Chair once again. Also, I have agreed to be the Show Chair again for next year.

Thank You,
Bill Schmidt

Upcoming Shows

Lodestar, February 2007

March 16-18: Rome, GA

Rome, Georgia Mineral Society, 30th Annual Valley and Ridge Gem and Mineral Show. Chapel Hill United Methodist Church (From the Rome Bypass (GA Loop 1), turn East on to Kingston Rd. (Hwy 293), drive a few hundred yards and turn right into the show at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. The mineral show will be in the gym past the parking lot).

Hours: 16th & 17th, 10:00A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
18th, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

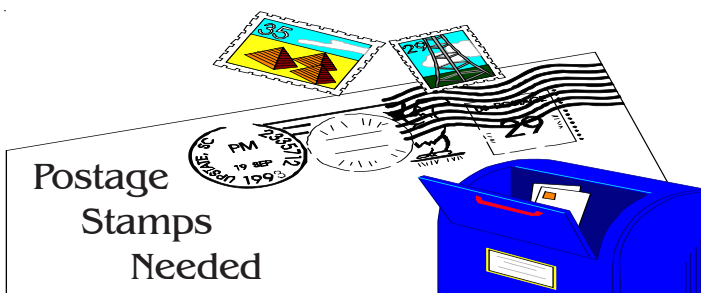
March 23-25: Raleigh, NC

Tarheel Gem and Mineral Club, 31st Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Kerr Scott Building, NC State Fairgrounds.

April 28-29: Memphis, TN

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, 28th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show. Pipkin Building Midsouth Fairgrounds (corner of East Parkway and Central Avenue).

Hours: 28th, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
29th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



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.

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



Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

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SFMS Field Trip Committee

Email Received February 26, 2007

Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

April 27, 28, 29 2007

Friday, October 5, 6, 7, 2007

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

The SFMS Field Trip Committee has been in contact with the caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., in regard to his plans to hold two separate three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during **April 27, 28, & 29, 2007** and during **October 5, 6, & 7, 2007**. 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 SFMS CLUBS and the GENERAL PUBLIC!

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. - 706-359-3862 (his business) or 706-359-2381 (his home)

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.

SFMS Field Trip Committee:

Please reply by e-mail to: dmc@gamineral.org

Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Committee Chair

Graves Mountain Code of Conduct!

Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.

CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Dig", IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER CONTINUOUS ADULT SUPERVISION!

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

The Graves Mountain caretaker, Clarence Norman Jr., has 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!)

STAY AWAY 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

February 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m., by past president Lou Codol, as Dave Cordes was absent and Bill Schmidt was delayed.

Sue Black reported on the dealers for the show and said we still need people to do cases. There is one additional small space for a dealer. Security and labor have been lined up and are the same folks we used last year.

Members were asked to be at the clubhouse by 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 2, to load the truck. We can get in the Minnreg building at noon and will have two hours to set up tables and cases before the dealers begin to arrive at 2 p.m..

We need people to staff the hospitality room, bring food for the dealers, and club members.

Sue Hazelden thanked the people who made up the grab bags, and said she was having a yard sale the weekend of March 22-23 to benefit the club. She asked for donations of *very gently* worn items. Items can be brought to her home, or to the clubhouse. She also asked for members' assistance in running the sale.

Elections for the 2007-08 officers were held and the slate of officers was unanimously voted in.

There was discussion about the clubhouse. Construction is still not underway.

Following the general meeting, the club's annual auction was held. While proceeds were adequate considering the number of members present, it was disappointing that so few members made the effort to attend this annual fundraiser.

Submitted by:
Julia Larson
Recording Secretary

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 Board Meeting
March 6, 2007

Bill Schmidt conducted the meeting in Dave's absence. Also present were: Sue Black, Sue Hazelden, Evie Loster, Terry Bogard, and Julia Larson.

The meeting minutes and treasurer's report were accepted by the board. Sue said the treasurer's report did not contain all fiscal information from the show.

Sue presented four membership applications and all were voted in. Additional applications were received during the show and those applicants were approved for membership during the show.

Bill handed out reports on this year's attendance and a comparison of expenses and income from shows in 2003-2007. Advertising expenses were discussed and the board is considering where the advertising monies are best spent for future shows. It was decided to contact schools/science programs at the beginning of the school year, rather than waiting until near the show. Also, we plan to spread printing costs out over the year instead of incurring them all at once, and to have dealers send their money in earlier. Bill Schmidt and Sue Black have agreed to chair next year's show.

Production of next month's newsletter was discussed. Sue Hazelden agreed to help Debbie this month, but said she can't do it on a regular basis. She will call Debbie and coordinate with her.

The clubhouse was discussed. There were two builders at the clubhouse while the meeting was going on, new members who are involved in the construction industry. They will be giving us a bid on the work. It was agreed to send a letter to Mr. Killion giving him a deadline to produce his license and insurance or return the plans.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Julia Larson
Recording Secretary

Rock-A-Gram

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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