

ROCK-A-GRAM



December, 2009



Volume 41, No. 4, Page 1

SGAMS Holiday Party

Thursday, December 17, 2009

6:00 p.m. - Set Up

6:30 p.m. - Meet and Greet

7:00 p.m. - Dinner



LOCATION

Sunshine Senior Center
330 Fifth Street North
Downtown St. Petersburg

WHAT TO BRING:

- Your place setting and eating utensils
- A dish to share with 8-10 friends
- A small gift for **Christmas Bingo Gift Exchange** (After much discussion the Christmas, oops I mean Holiday, party committee has decided to have a gift exchange and revive something totally unique to SGAMS- Holiday Bingo! Sue Hazelden has volunteered to clue us in on how this works. It's great fun and really helps people get to know each other. So bring a small gift and join in the festivities.)

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Good food, good fun, door prizes and silent auction

SEE YOU THERE!

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Bill Schmidt, President 727-822-8279
Email: schmidwj@eckerd.edu

Donna Remsnyder, Vice President 727-692-6006
Email: d.remsnyder@verizon.net

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Rock-A-Gram Newsletter
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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.
General Meetings: 7:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday of each month; September - May, at clubhouse.

President's Message

Good Day Members,

A little dreary on the weather lately but it is a nice change from all of the sun and heat we normally have. Personally I like the fog as it give everything such a unique and totally different look and feel yet does not affect much on what you want to do for the day. That is unless your trying to paint the outside of a clubhouse. Oh well. Inside are the details for the new day in January (the 2nd). We figure that this should be outside of everybody's holiday commitments and still have a chance for some good weather.

In your plans for the month don't forget that Lost In Time is having his show at the Pier this weekend. Did not get to see it last year but I heard it was good. Not very many places to see fossils during the year so you may not want to miss it. Lots of fossils of his own and from some state researchers will be on the third floor (inside, warm and no fog).

Pinellas Geological Society is having their show come up in January and the tables all sold out early. There are also a lot of other people showing their wares at different places all month. While a list does not exist, if you ask around at the Banquet this coming Thursday I'm sure that interesting things will be discovered.

I hope to see everyone at the pot luck dinner for what is always a good meal and lots of camaraderie. The location is the same and is easy to find for new members.

Till Thursday,
Bill Schmidt, President

Show News

Our fliers and business card advertisements are in!! We have a lot of both available at the club house. So come by when ever we are open and take what you need to hand out. I'll also bring them to the banquet. I would like everybody to begin thinking about where you can post and hand these out in your travels. Think about bulletin boards you see, employer and club and association news letters, doctor's offices, bowling leagues, etc. and whatever you can think of. Just be sure to ask about what their policy is on posting advertisements. I'm thinking that starting in January would be a good time.

The Minnreg people say their new marquee will be installed in a few weeks and ready by the time our show comes around. They have also added an ATM to the premises. Just in case for those of us who might run out of cash in a building filled with rocks to buy. Come on you know it can happen.



Work Day Schedule

Painting Day Rescheduled!!

Well by now everybody should know that we were rained out for painting the Clubhouse. Preparation was pretty well done with the outside pressure washed, the trench dug, old screws, nails and cables pulled, holes patched and the fascia half sanded and filled. So I would like to thank David W, Don, and Sue H. who did this work for their assistance. I also want to thank the people that called about the weather and should they should come or not.

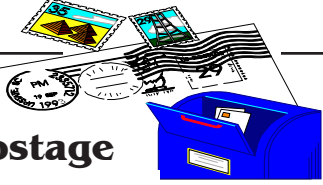
The painting has been rescheduled for January the 2nd at 9:00 a.m.. The plan will be the same: filling and caulking the cracks in the wood, windows and blocks for a quick half hour dry. Priming the wood that needs it and beginning painting on the areas that are fully ready. So we need people to do the brush work to cut in the corners and edges, people for rolling primer and paint, people for caulking, and trim persons. Ladders will be needed for some but most is ground work.



The ladies picked out colors of a tan for the walls and a flat light green for the trim. These should look great. I'll have coffee and some donuts in the morning. Bring a bag lunch so we can sit together and admire our work around noon or a little later.

While we have rollers and brushes were short on good trim brushes, roller trays, spare rollers and extension handles. If you could bring your favorite tools it would be good. Before hand there will be the second half of fascia sanding to do and some more filling to make sure there is not a bottle neck when the painting starts. I will be at the Clubhouse on Mondays at 4:00 p.m., if anyone wants to help with this ladder work.

Thanks and see you on the 2nd,
Bill Schmidt, President



Postage Stamps Needed

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.

Construction Update

For December not much has changed if you are coming by the clubhouse. The 46th Avenue access is still one way from 66th Street westwards to Park Street. But, hang in there folks. There are only 14 months left till completion which is scheduled in the spring of 2011.

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society

a local non-profit club proudly presents:
40th Annual

Gem & Mineral Show and Sale

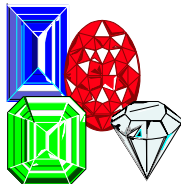
March 5, 6, 7, 2010

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....**

ADMISSION

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

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.

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
June-July, 2009
www.AMFED.org

2009-10 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation

June 18-20, 2010

TBA

Rocky Mountain Federation

October 2-3, 2009
Roswell, NM

Eastern Federation

October 17-18, 2009

Bristol, CT

South Central Federation

AFMS

Midwest Federation

TBA

October 10-11, 2009

Temple, TX

Northwest Federation

TBA

AFMS Annual Convention

TBA

Upcoming Shows

Source: *Canaveral Moonstone, October 2009*

January 16-17, 2009: Deland

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society, Annual Jewelry, Gem Mineral & Fossil Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds, St. Rte 44, Deland www.tomokagms.org

January 15-17, 2010: Largo

Pinellas Geological Society, 33rd Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale, Parkside Room, Largo Cultural Center. Hours: 16th & 17th, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 18th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 p.m.

January 30-31, 2010: Panama City

19th Annual Show, Bay County Fairgrounds, American Legion Hall, U.S. 98 and Sherman Ave. Hours: 305h, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 31st 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

February 13-14-2010: Merritt Island

Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club, "Symphony of Gemstones" Kiwanis Island Park, 950 Kiwanis Park Rd.

Feb. 21, 2009: Auburndale

Imperial Bone Valley Gem Mineral and Fossil Society, The Auburndale Beach Club (on lake Ariana), 321 Ramsgate Rd., Auburndale, FL www.bonevalley.net

Federation Websites:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

www.amfed.org

Lodestar Newsletter

www.amfed.org/sfms
lodestar_newsletter.html

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

www.amfed.org/sfms

New Members

Keeling, Kay

3760 1/2 - 58th ave N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
727-515-2282
skinheadth@hotmail.com

Wright, Sandy

7150 Sunset Way #701 E
St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706
561-846-9404
spwright2000@yahoo.com

Bloomfield, Caryn & Jeff

312 S. Jupiter ave
Clearwater, FL 33755
727-443-1215
carynjoyb@aol.com

Kofler, Dawn

12321 Gulf Blvd.
Treasure Island, FL 33706
727-479-5909
dawnkofler@gmail.com

**Happy Holidays to
all You
Rockhounds...**



Source: Star-O-Lite, Augusta Gem and Mineral Society,
Volume 45, #12, December 2009

Tips & Tidbits

Source: Star-O-Lite, Augusta Gem and Mineral Society,
Volume 45, #12, December 2009

More Comfortable Cab Cutting—Is the edge of your cab machine water trough sharp? When you're cutting a cab, does the edge dig into your wrist or arm? Here's an easy and inexpensive solution to end your discomfort. Get a piece of foam pipe insulation from the hardware store and place a piece of it over the edge of the trough. Voila, no more discomfort! And, you can easily remove the foam when you go to empty or clean the trough. —from Gem Cutters News June, 2009 via The Rock Collector Dec. 2009

Working with Dark Colored Moss Agate—like the black Montana variety, small pits may sometimes appear on the finished, polished surface. The light-colored polishing powders, such as tin oxide or cerium oxide, often pack into these small pits, making removal difficult and white spots surely distract from the stone's appearance. Try rubbing a small bit of black India ink into the spotted area, and then try to rob off the ink. The white spots will disappear. —from Rockhound Rambling Sept. 2008 via Rock Collector Dec. 2009

Keeping Ivory in Light—Don't put ivory in the dark! It is one substance that needs light. If it has started to yellow, take half a lemon and rub it in some salt. Then rub it over the ivory object. The lemon will work on the yellow discoloration. After it is dry, dampen a soft cloth with lukewarm water, and rub the ivory. —from Pick & Pack, Dec. 2009 via Rock Collector, Dec. 2009

A Website to Visit

The Field Museum in Chicago currently has a new exhibition The Nature of Diamonds that continues until the end of March. Since most of us will not be able to see it firsthand, www.fieldmuseum.org/diamonds/highlights.asp is the next, very best way to enjoy what is offered. Highlights include the gem's formation and sites, preparation for sale, symbolism and history, industrial uses, and a photo gallery of exquisite jewels.

One can also visit the newly renovated Grainger Hall of Gems that opened October 23. The Tiffany Collection dating to the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition has been completely redesigned and updated to include more than 600 gemstones and 150 pieces of jewelry. The Exhibition Walk-through and history of the collection complete the visit. Another permanent exhibition is the Hall of Jades with links to All About Jade including Jade as a Stone, Colors of Jade, Jade-working Methods, and Where in the World. The Photo Gallery presents a history of Chinese jade in pictures.

Marbles Gems

6th Annual - Rock Yard Sale

January 16th, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Come and shop at our home - for our annual *Inventory Reduction Sale*

Open to Rock Club Members, where you will find awesome deals

Wholesale dealers bring your tax ID

\$2.00 rock tables
 Sodalite \$3.00 lb
 Jet \$4.00 lb
 Calcite Spheres \$2.50 lb
 Turquoise \$35.00 lb - u pick \$45.00 lb
 10 lb min. Satin Spar / \$1.50 lb
 15 lb min. Amethyst Druse / sale \$2.00 lb
 Rose Quartz / \$3.00 lb
 Gem Trees / \$7.50 or 2 for \$10.00
 Salt Lamps \$10.00 each with cord and bulb
 Top Polish Malachite - specimen grade \$20.00 lb
 Non Drilled-Dichroic Glass Cabochons \$4.00 each
 Pyrite "fools gold" 5 lb min \$2.50 lb - 2" pc
 Chip and assorted beads (what a Deal!) Only \$2.00 strand in 10 strand lots
 Pearl stands (white) reg. \$5.00 - sale \$2.50 strand
 Cut base agate geodes 44 lb box at \$1.50 lb
 Shark Tooth 1" - 1.5" - already wire wrapped \$2.50 each
 Shark Tooth pendant on cord ½" - ¾" - \$2.00 each
 Green and Blue Aventurine \$1.50 lb
 Bookends (we are holding the old price) \$1.50 lb / we still have good ones left
 Bookends with crystal pockets 44 lb box \$2.00 lb / u-pick \$2.50 lb
 Indonesian Polished Petrified Wood (new shipment) reg. \$6.00 lb / sale \$2.00 lb
 Rose Quartz Spheres \$30.00 lb



Directions: From I-75 take exit 205 to west on Clark Rd. to right on Swift Rd. to left on Ashton Rd. 2 blocks to right on Damariscotta Pl. to 2nd house on right - 5240

Ralph and Eileen Marble
 5240 Dallas Place, Sarasota, FL 34231
 R.S.V.P. to Phone (941) 922-2135

Please Note: We will be accepting CASH, CHECKS, and Visa/MasterCard (\$20.00 min)

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Board members present were: Bill Schmidt, Sue Hazelden, Dave Watson, Dave Schwebel, Don Schlough, George Comas, and Julia Larson. Also present were: Pat Davis (Education chair) and Debbie Bremer (newsletter editor).

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report; also reported on upcoming expenses: tax bill, termite inspection contract, the Minn-Reg contract, and insurance; and anticipated income. The board voted to withdraw funds from the CD when it matures this month and put the money in savings. Since taxes are expected to be less this year, a motion was made to apply the difference to the outstanding loan. The motion was passed unanimously.

Committee reports: **Show** - Bill said half-page flyers and cards are being printed in time for the Cox show at the end of November. Also there are two more boxes of slabs to be priced. **Newsletter** - Debbie - deadline for the November Rock-a-Gram is November 11. Bill will send an article on the road construction. **Membership** - no pending applications at this time. **Education** - Pat reviewed revised handout for new members; some changes and additions were suggested. George noted that members of the Tampa club are required to go through orientation every year. After discussion, the board voted to follow this procedure beginning in January. George will attend the Tampa club's meeting to learn more about this. The cabbng room schedule for the remainder of the year was discussed. The room will definitely be closed December 26; Pat will gauge interest for the month. **Equipment:** Dave Schwebel - new wheels are being installed and other issues, including rental charges for the Vibrasonic tumbler. **Program** - Donna reported by phone - program will be a video on gem mining in North Carolina.

New Business: Clubhouse work day will be Saturday, December 5. Main work to be done is repainting the exterior of the building. Bill will ask for volunteers at the general meeting. Pressure washing and other prep work will be done Nov. 23 and 30. Charles Woolheater has already done a lot of painting and repair. Bill checked with the board re who has clubhouse keys. Pat will head the **nominating committee for the 2010-11 board**. Board voted to send a monetary gift to the neighbor who continues to mow the grass for us. **Correction to the October minutes** was made prior to sending them for publication. Bill - think about establishing a **building fund**; discussion tabled for a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes
 November 19, 2009

Bill Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The first item discussed was the recent destruction and theft of parts of our exterior air conditioner unit and ways to prevent future occurrences.

Guests introduced themselves:

Sandy Wright is a retired geologist and rock collector. Kay Keeling is a collector and makes jewelry, collages and mosaics. Caryn and Jeff Bloomfield are also collectors, and Caryn makes wire wrapped jewelry. All completed applications for membership.

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report.

Bill discussed appreciation for the neighbor who mows our lawn and for Charles Woolheater, who has done a lot of work on the clubhouse. He mentioned upcoming

shows, including the Pinellas Geological Society's January show and the Cox show at the Coliseum. Flyers and business cards for our show are ready. He also has a new Kingsley North catalog, which will be posted on the bulletin board.

Julia talked about the Christmas dinner, December 17, at the Sunshine Center in downtown St. Petersburg. She asked for donations for door prizes.

Pat Davis spoke about current classes being offered. The cabbng room is closed through the end of the month. The December schedule will be forthcoming.

The clubhouse workday will be Saturday, December 5, at 9 a.m. Many people are needed to complete the exterior paint job. Bill will call members who indicated an

interest in building maintenance on their applications. Prep work will be done on November 23 and 30. Volunteers were asked to bring bag lunches for the work-days.

Independent shows this weekend will feature members Laura Parrish (Saturday and Sunday) and Pat Davis and Julia Larson (Friday).

A video program on gem mining in North Carolina followed the raffle. The William Holland School was featured in a portion of the video.

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

Submitted by:
Julia Larson
 Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
 November 19, 2009

Following the general meeting, board members met to vote on several membership applications. Seven board members were present.

Applications from the following individuals/families were discussed: Sandy Wright; Kay Keeling; Caryn and Jeff Bloomfield; Dawn Koffler. All were accepted unanimously.

Discussion regarding the repair/replacement/ of the air conditioning unit was tabled until the December board meeting to allow time for additional estimates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 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.

Buttons, Bangles and Beads

Sally Adams

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December

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!</i>		1 BOARD MEETING 7:30-9 p.m.	2 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	3	4	5 Faceting 10-12 a.m.
6	7 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	8	9 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	10	11	12 Faceting 10-12 a.m.
13	14 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	15	16 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	17 HOLIDAY PARTY	18	19 Faceting 10-12 a.m.
20	21 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	22	23 CLOSED	24	Christmas 25	26 CLOSED
27	28 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	29	30 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	New Years Eve 31		

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 our clubhouse 4619 69th Street 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 Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

Clubhouse Open:

Mondays, 5 - 9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 - 9 p.m.

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

Faceting, Silversmithing

Wire Wrapping Classes

By appointment