

ROCK-A-GRAM



April, 2007



Volume 38, No. 8, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center

1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg

PROGRAM

Wire Wrapping

Carole Shelton a member of the Pinellas Geological Society, and long time demonstrator at our show, will give a talk, and demonstration of wire wrapping. As a project she will show and help members make a pair of Bird Cage earrings. Some materials will be provided. If you have small needle nose pliers, flat and round tip, especially ones with smooth jaws, please bring them. Any extras to share will be of help. If you have quality wire for your own use, feel free to bring it, and any beads or stones that have been awaiting a purpose.

Aluminum Cans

This is an on going project, so please keep saving them! I will have a box at meetings, or they can be dropped off at the clubhouse when it is open, or my house, if you call first. With all the work that has to be done on the clubhouse, and to keep an operating budget for the coming year we need all the funds we can get. My phone # is 321-5732

Submitted by: Sue Hazelden

Silversmithing Tools For Sale:

Third hand, copper tongs, large oxy-acet tanks with mini torch heads. Small crock pot for pickle, solder, and hand tools, will sell separate or all together. everything you need to get started and then some.

Call: Sue Black

727-345-8994 after 6:00 p.m.

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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 email: whisgyp@knology.net
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 Clearwater, FL 33756

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 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,

As I write my note for this month's newsletter, I am waiting for the final word from Fred Cook. Mr. Cook is a State Certified builder, who has been introduced to the club by a friend of Bill Schmidt's. Bill met him at the clubhouse and described our situation, and gave him the plans (approved by the county, finally). I had retrieved these plans from Gordon Killion. Our experience with Mr. Killion was, to say the least, frustrating. However, we are moving on, I will not dwell on this episode. As I said, I am waiting final word from Mr. Cook. He and I spoke just today and he is waiting for an estimate from the electrical subcontractor he employs. This is the last of his group who needs to provide numbers to give us a complete proposal for the construction on the clubhouse. It is only then that we'll know whether or not we can afford his work. With any kind of luck, his proposal will be within our budget. Bill has said that he is willing to allow us to do some of the finishing work, which would save us some costs. By the time of the General Meeting, I expect that the Board will have met and discussed the estimated costs, and we'll have positive news for you.

Dave Cordes, President



2006 Show Photos
Taken by: Bill Schmidt

YARD SALE REPORT

Yes, it was a **HUGE** success! If you would like to know just how huge, come to the next meeting to find out.

First, I would like to thank all of you who donated items to our effort, but, an **especial** thanks to **Teresita Benedetti Hansen** who lives in New Port Richey, for her tremendous effort. She brought 4 truck loads of items to the sale, a long round trip each time!!

Next, thanks to all who gave of their time to set up, man and take down the sale. **Wilda Bisset, Sue Black, Lou Codol, Pat Davis, Rose & Gene Labranche** who also used their truck again to haul the leftovers away, **Evie Loster** and granddaughter **Jacie, Barbara Watson** and **Hugh & Leona Sheffield**.

Also, an especial thanks to my daughter **Susan**, (who is not a member,) for the hours she spent helping me price and re packing all the items as they arrived. Last but not least, a **big thanks** to my son-in-law **Everett**, (also not a member,) for feeding and watering all of us, both days of the sale, and donating the cost to the club.

I feel that we could do this again, if someone else donates their drive way, and time. We have kept the better items from the sale and stored them at the clubhouse as seed for another one. Is there someone out there that would like to do this for our club?

Submitted by: Sue Hazelden

WORKSHOP UPDATES

As the SGAMS club meets this month, the April workshop at Wildacres will be finishing out the week. Once again, this session suffers from lack of students. Several classes had to be cancelled. The Education Committee will address whether to drop this session altogether at the June quarterly meeting.

Registrations for the remaining workshops are still being accepted. Family Week at the June, William Holland workshop is shaping up to be a lot of fun. There are still openings in the junior classes, so don't delay in getting your registration forms in. There will be information about the field trip and other activities in next month's Lodestar and Rock-A-Gram.

The **William Holland registrars** are Charlotte Caughman and Micheal Adkins, whregistrars@gmail.com, phone 864-473-4474. The **Wildacres registrars** are Robert and Flora Lee Walker, waregistrars@gmail.com, phone 423-473-3077. Registration forms can be downloaded from the SFMS web site, www.amfed/sfms/workshops.

Julia Larson, SFMS Education Chair

New Members/Additions:

Lois Jacobs
P. O. Box 23261
St. Petersburg, FL 33742

C R Stitt
8001 Blind Pass Rd, Apt 13
St Petersburg Beach, FL 33706

Mark Hall
6570 2nd Ave S,
St Petersburg, FL 33707

Francis & Jacqueline
Krickler
6381 51st Ave N,
St Petersburg, FL 33709

Louis Mankowski
683 Lindigan St.
Linden, NJ 07036

Karl & Mary Belcher
11200 142nd St
Largo, FL 33774

Harley Siekkinen
6387 23rd St
St Petersburg, FL 33702

Donna Sanders
2005 Cot Rd, Lot 833,
Lutz, FL 33558

Rick Norgard
1030 26th St N.
Fargo, ND 58102

Kay Condron
555 173rd Ave E,
N Reddington Bch, FL 33708

Charlie Lester
4031 43rd Ave N
St Petersburg, FL 33714

Henry Kirschner,
3663 58th Ave N, Lot 724,
St Petersburg, FL 33714

If you have an email address, please send to to eloster@tampabay.rr.com. Please put "Suncoast e-mail Update" in the subject line, I can then find it in my anti-spam mail easier. This will make it much easier to contact people and send out reminders of the meetings, ask for volunteers, etc.

Vincent Runnowich Sr.
4063 10th Ave N,
St Petersburg, FL 33713

“Say It Ain’t So Moh!”

Now the Moh’s scale as we have come to know it, is currently in the midst of undergoing some dramatic changes as secretly revealed by an insider source recently. Legal briefs have been filed in the 11th Circuit Court in Eclectic, Alabama as of February 29th, 2007.

The Moh’s Scale was initially created to separate and identify differing groups of stone with each group number sharing a very important factor—hardness from the lowest denominator being a soft stone (such as talc) one, to the opposite end of the spectrum with a rating of ten to distinguish the diamond’s high-end rating.

In 1922, Friedrich Leroy Moh, a German mineralogist devised a crude but practical method of comparing hardness or scratch resistance of minerals. It has become universally known as Moh’s scale or Mohs scale as the grammatically challenged would call it. Throughout his lapidary life he longed for a set of standards by which the hardness of all stones could be reasonably classified on a scale of one through ten. Mohs, born in Gernrode, Germany, studied chemistry, mathematics and physics at the University of Halle and also studied at the Mining Academy in Freiberg, Saxony. After assuming the position of a foreman at a mine in 1901, Mohs moved in 1902 to Alabaster Alabama, where he was employed in trying to identify the minerals in a private collection of a banker.

His mother, Sophronia Betsy Moh was originally married to a hard working “carnie” that bit the heads off chickens while working as a carnival geek for P.T. Barnum. To say she was the matriarch of a totally dysfunctional extended family is an understatement of major proportions. Money they made; common sense they did not. Sophronia (Mrs. Moh) had an eccentric third cousin, twice removed, by her former father-in-law’s aunt who by chance, had inherited several million dollars from her great grandfather. Turns out, this cousin was named Larry. Larry, who was a loafer; preferred not to waste his valuable time working for a living. Throughout his life he had piddled away the days helping Leroy establish criteria for Leroy’s to-become famous hardness scale.

Not long after Leroy’s eventual death due to an overdose of milk duds, Larry decided he wanted a piece of the

action with regard to royalties earned through the implementation of the Moh’s scale. Larry wanted to be remembered and wanted his share of the monies that have accumulated over the years.

Now as if this wasn’t embarrassing enough, consider the following. Mrs. Sophronia Moh’s maiden name was Kurlie. Upon her son’s early and unexpected passing, she too decided she was due some of the financial rewards due her son as a result of his life’s work on the scale of hardness, with which all we rockhounds are now familiar.

Thereon, legal battles of unprecedented enormity have begun in the courts at Eclectic, AL. The chief justices have heard arguments from both sides. No decision could be made at the 11th Circuit Court hearings. So on March 17th, the chief justices moved the hearings to Washington D. C., to be heard by the Federal Courts. Their decision would be final.

This story does have an end, which we are now approaching. In addition to financial rewards being sought by Mrs. Moh as well as the cousin, both are demanding their names be included in the hardness scale formerly known as the Moh’s scale. The sad news, on April 1st, we must report that a liberal judge in Washington, D.C. has agreed to change the name of our beloved scale to include the names of the two claimants seeking notoriety and presumably a name for themselves in the history books.

Therefore, with much trepidation, we deliver the unsettling news to you that as of January 1, 2008 at 12:01 a.m. the Moh’s scale shall no longer be known by its name we had so fondly recognized it by. In the future, mention of the rockhound’s reference to scale of hardness shall be known as the Kurlie, Moh and Larry scale.

Please remember in the future to address this scale accordingly. April Fool’s

*Co-authors: Herb Whittington (334) 793-6811
Frank Foster - GaRockhound@aol.com
Editors of the Rockhounds Flimflam Journal*

Upcoming Shows

Lodestar, February 2007

April 28-29: Memphis, TN

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.

April 28: Panama City, FL

Panama City Gem and Mineral Society

Jo Moody Harris Park Clubhouse

Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

May 11-13: Marietta, GA

Georgia Mineral Society, (www.gamineral.org) 39th Annual Mother's Day Weekend Gem and Mineral Show. Cobb County Civic Center, 548 Marietta Parkwy (corner of North Marietta Parkway and Fairgrounds Road).

Hours: 11th & 12th, 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 p.m..

13th, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m..

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION MEETING

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies held its first quarterly meeting of the year in Hendersonville, NC, on March 24, 2007. Some of the issues discussed included budgeting, the Mayo Foundation scholarships, the stamp program, the workshops, and the club renewal forms.

The Mayo Foundation, for those who are not familiar with it, provides scholarships to college and university students in their last two years of a geology-related program. Students wishing to apply for these scholarships can contact the Mayo Foundation at the address on the SFMS web site for information. Over \$12,000 in scholarship monies are available this year.

The stamp program information on the SFMS web site has been updated. Clubs are asked to review the web site for information on what to save and how to send them to the Federation. Clubs who send in the most stamps each year are entered into a drawing for scholarships to any of the SFMS workshops at William Holland and Wildacres.

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

They are also asked to use commemorative stamps for club-related mailings, including newsletters.

Clubs are also asked to be aware of how the Federations function in relation to the clubs and to the American Federation. The State Directors should be visiting their clubs to present this information, and there is a wealth of information on the web sites. Take a few moments to visit www.amfed/sfms and learn about our parent organizations, see photos of the workshop facilities and many other important facts.

By: *Julia Larson*

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

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

March, 15, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. There were three guests who became new members: Harley Siekkinen, Lois King, and Mark Hall. Irv Thornton was there with his daughter, who is a third-generation SGAMS member.

Sue Hazelden presented the treasurer's report and said the final show report was not yet available. Sue also reminded members about the upcoming yard sale at her house, March 23 and 24, to raise money for the club.

Bill Schmidt reported on the show.

Evie Loster, membership chairperson, asked everyone to be sure she has their current addresses and phone numbers, and also email addresses. The club will be offering the option of receiving the *Rock-A-Gram* by email in the future.

Dave discussed the current state of affairs of the clubhouse, which is not promising. The board is currently exploring other options for getting the work done.

There will be a field trip to Ft. Drum on March 25. Sue Hazelden is organizing this and asked anyone who wants to come to contact her. She also mentioned that she has silversmithing equipment for sale.

The end of the year dinner will be May 17. A chairperson (coordinator) for this event is needed. Please contact a board member, if interested.

The bead class at Azalea baked cupcakes for us, in appreciation for all the members who have given beads for these disabled individuals to use in their class.

Hugh Sheffield gave a talk on the relationship between SGAMS and the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies and its parent organization, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Hugh is the SFMS state chairman for Florida. He talked about the workshop program (Wildacres and William Holland classes), as well as the Mayo Foundation, an arm of SFMS which provides scholarships for higher education students majoring in geology-related fields. If you know of such a student, please let him or her know about this program. There is a wealth of information on the web sites, and everyone is encouraged to read through them each month. The current edition of the *Lodestar* is available on the web site by the 10th of each month. The address is www.amfed.org/sfms.

Leona Sheffield presented a program on amber. She had a number of exquisite necklaces and jewelry pieces, courtesy of local art teacher Mary Stenov, for members to see, as well as raw specimens. Leona said she really didn't know much about amber when she started researching the subject a few months ago. She obtained a lot of information from the internet, and encouraged club members to do the same and to present programs on their areas of interest at future meetings.

Julia Larson
Recording Secretary



Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting
April 3, 2007

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted by the Board.

The final show report was also presented and approved by the Board.

The Rock-A-Gram was discussed; Debbie Bremer will continue to prepare the copy. Dave and Joanne Cordes will take care of the printing and mailing. The Board asks that any members who may wish to help with the printing and mailing contact a Board member to offer their assistance.

Tenting of the clubhouse has been completed and the infestation has been eliminated.

The new contractor has been to the clubhouse with some of his subcontractors and will meet with another soon. When their evaluations have been completed, he will submit a bid for the renovations.

Sue Hazelden reported that the yard sale was a huge success. Sue wanted to thank the members who brought in some very nice articles, and special thanks to Teresita Hansen for her generous donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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