

ROCK-A-GRAM



January, 2007



Volume 38, No.5, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Azalea Adult Center

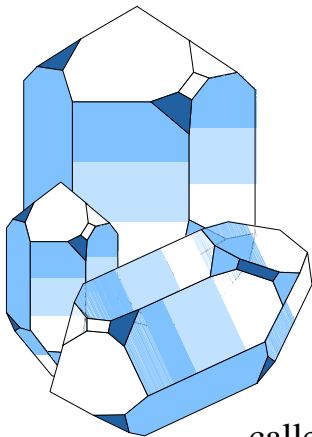
1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg

Program:

Herkimer? Diamonds?

Presented by: Sue Hazelden



Our club member, *Sue Hazelden*, will give a talk and show a video of mining for these gems in Herkimer County, NY. Located in central and a bit north in the state of New York, the large rural county is at the foothills of the Adirondacks. Sue has been at the mine many times in past and I think can be called one of her favorites. The video was edited with footage from many trips there and also features Jack Hazelden, and Jeane Bush. It is introduced with a section from a PBS broadcast on the area. Be sure you don't miss this program about these fascinating gems.

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

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 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.

Work Day at Clubhouse

Saturday, January 20
 9 a.m. - Noon

Please come and help us with things that need to be done around the clubhouse. Thank you.

Address Change

Chris McGaughna
 6989 122nd Way
 Seminole, FL 33772

Name Badges

Name badges for members are still available. The cost is \$3.50. These are needed if you plan to help at the show in March, to help identify yourself to our dealers, should they need help of any sort. Please see *Sue Hazelden*.

Rockhounder's Gift

National Geographic Back Roads Explorer

CD-Rom #20118C, \$49.95 for 18 CD-Roms.

A digital road atlas of the U.S. – zoom in on regions of interest, created from USGS topographic maps, view any map in 3-D, GPS compatible.

Order online at www.ShopNG.org or call 1.888.225.5647.

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

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN FEBRUARY. The election will be held at that time.

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
a local non-profit club proudly presents:
37th 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.

<p>CONTINUOUS WORKING DEMONSTRATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bead Stringing <input type="checkbox"/> Wirecraft <input type="checkbox"/> Channel Work <input type="checkbox"/> Gem Cutting 	 <p>DIAMONDS EMERALDS RUBIES</p> <p>14K GOLD JEWELRY DOOR PRIZES EXHIBITS AND MUCH MORE....</p>	<p>DIRECTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Minnreg Building 6340 126th Avenue No. Largo <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> From North on US 19 take 66th Street exit go to 126th Ave., turn left.
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ADMISSION
Adults - \$5.00 good for all three days, children under 6 FREE
Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00

Show News

This show is shaping up to be an excellent one. Work is advancing on all fronts and with the work day on Saturday the 20th at the Clubhouse we should be able to finish off a lot of the prepping. Sue Hazelden will need help with the stuffing of the grab bags. Wilda Bisset will be there and if we have extra time the mailing cards she has done for last year's attendees can be stamped. The yard signs that we put at the intersections need some work and a coat of paint as well as the ticket booth. The banners need to be checked and mounting hardware straightened out. Supplies need to be checked and inventoried.

Getting the word out! At the meeting I will have our full page fliers available. You need to take as many as you can and ask the stores, lodges, houses of worship, friends, workplaces, sewing circles, book clubs, club houses, and any place that has a bulletin board if you can place a notice of our "community group activity". Mention that we are a nonprofit, community based, open to all who wish to learn and be sure to get per-

mission first. What newsletters do you receive and read and can you get a copy in the next issue?

We are trying a new tactic this year with business card size advertising. You might have seen the example that we had of an announcement about a Christmas light display. The idea here is not to post these just at show but to hand them to people directly. When you meet someone like a waitress or cashier strike up a short conversation, mention that belong to a club, that we are having a gem show and hand them a card or two. Nice, short and sweet. Try it a couple of times and it will be easy. You will be doing the most important work we have – finding customers for our dealers.

Other areas:

Dealers – All of our full size dealers are set and we have room for one small size.

Demonstrators – All seven spots are filled.

Display Cases – All 16 are open just waiting for you to show everyone how much you love your special interest in gems, minerals and rocks.

Committees – Work areas of Ticket Booth, Information, Hospitality, Club Tables, Setup and Take down all have room available for signing up.

Times are set up in 2-hour blocks over each of the three days from opening at 9:30 to closing at 5:00 or 6:00. I (we, the club) need everybody to sign up for a shift or two and make this show a success.

Thank you.

Bill Schmidt, Show Chair

FOR SALE

Stained glass hobbyists! Cutter's Mate Precision Cutter - new. Cost \$240. Sell for \$200.

Email: juliamlanson@earthlink.net
or call 727-522-1254



Federation Box Swap

The Federation Box Swap has continued to grow to the advantage of its many participants. For the past two years, the Federation Box Swap has been issuing guidelines for swapping specimens through the United States Postal Service.

Clubs in 21 states have traded ten pounds of material at a time. Now, normally this would be a serious expense, was it not for the discovery of the "Flat-Rate-Box" the post office hands out for free, to encourage the use of its services. The two sizes are: 11" x 8 1/2" x 5 1/2" and 11 7/8" x 3 3/8" x 13 5/8" with a postage of \$8.10. This is just a reminder that we still have clubs in several states ready to do some trading from their local sites. You can have some wonderful material coming from across the country.

The guidelines are simple. Choose a category for your trades. Make it mineral crystals, mineral lapidary, fossils, or work within several categories. Follow the packing rules of providing appropriate labels of identification and location for each specimen. Put each specimen in its own wrap to cushion it, and then cushion between specimens. Let me know when you're packed. I will find you possible trades for your category. It's that simple. Trade once a year, or as often as you can accommodate the activity.

We're ready for you to rejuvenate your meetings. I only say to you, send the kind of specimens that you would want to receive. Discuss this with your club members. I am sure folks are ready to do something with the duplicate specimens they've got sitting around. When you're ready to suggest trading to your club, send the introductory letter from the Federation Box Swap coordinator. That's me: Michael Kessler, 4 Longfellow Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301; phone 570.421.3113; email quartz7228@aol.com (use reference: Box Swap)

—From AFMS Newsletter, October 2006, Hound's Howl, December 2006.

Gemology Classroom – At-Home

The Hound's Howl, December 2006

The International School of Gemology has introduced a new dimension in the study of gemology for distance education students. The ISG Gemology Classroom-At-Home brings every part of the classroom experience to you through our DVD lecture series, gemological lab equipment package, Study Gems gemstone collection sent to you for your own reference library, the on-line gemology courses, our ISG Student Chat Room sessions, and the ISG Student Forums Boards where you can interact with your instructor and other students from around the world 24 hours a day. This new concept in gemological training gives you the experience of a classroom setting without the financial expense and time delays that go along with having to travel and be away from home for extended study periods. We bring the classroom to you for the best study of gemology you can get. And....at a price that is far more affordable than any other school.

—from International School of Gemology website:
www.schoolofgemology.com/classroomathome.html

Upcoming Shows

Canaveral Moonstone, January 2007

January 27-28: Venice

Gulf Coast Mineral, Fossil and Gem Club,
 36th Show, www.mineralfossilgemclubvenicefl.org
 Venice Community Center
 326 S. Nokomis Avenue
 Hours: 27th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 28th - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

February 9-10: Merritt Island

Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club
 Kiwanis Island Park, SR 520
 Merritt Island Causeway
 Email: huntingr@bellsouth.net

WEB SITES

Bringing new sites to light



By: *Wendell C. Mohr*, Hound's Howl, December 2006

All Things Ancient in Arizona, <<http://www.t-rat.com/>>, the personal web site of Ron Ratkevich, concerns itself with fossils and archeology in Arizona. See information on various species, geologic eras in AZ, topographic maps, geologic time, fossil preparation, where to find them, dinosaurs of AZ, collecting tools, and Fossil identification and a host of other topics. The Petrified Forest and the Grand Canyon National Parks get a play and, as others, are well illustrated. Check out all the other links. All those fossils are nearly as old as the cast of "60 Minutes". Ever notice how most turtle fossils are found upside down? Even then, they were saying "Help, I've fallen and can't get up."

Trinity Mineral Company, <<http://www.trinityminerals.com/index.htm>> by John Veevaert is a commercial site which, as usual, we do not endorse, but bring to you as a top notch web site to visit. The main web site is an umbrella for other websites: Mineral Auctions, Tsumeb, Benitoite, Rare Minerals, Mineral Books, Mineral Shows, Mineral Museums, UV Rocks, and Links. Here is a way to spend a long cold winter night, seeing mouth watering material. A "Cross index" allows a peak at Africa, Asia, North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Russia information. There are articles and exceptional specimens, including gold. The dealer had a bunch of water soluble minerals like halite, sylvite, chalcantite. High humidity in his shop forced him to hold a liquidation sale. Another dealer in fluorescent minerals held a day-night sale.

San Diego Natural History Museum, presents a doubleheader FOR KIDS, the first is "Mineral Matters" at <<http://www.sdnhm.org/kids/minerals/index.html>> where you will find How to identify minerals, Build a collection, Mineral FAQs, Grow your own crystals, and Mine Games. There are True-False and 10 question quizzes, and a word search. Every beginner starts out knowing Quartz and Calcite. They are about as common as the "You Know" of our sports figures.



The other is "**Dinosaur Dig**," <<http://www.sdnhm.org/kids/dinosaur/index.html>> which has Name that reptile, Finding Fossils, Dinosaur bytes, The mystery of the Ankylosaur, Jurassic Jumbler and Explore fossil mysteries. Educational as well, it has games, a slide show, and word search. Layers of rocks containing fossil remains are called beds. What should you do if you find a T. Rex sleeping in your bed? Sleep somewhere else! Some California regional minerals and fossils are featured. Have fun juniors (And seniors too).

www.rockhoundkids.com

Created by Kids for Kids! With Our Gallery of Minerals, Great Links for Kids, and Rock & Mineral Kits from Dragon Mountain Treasures (TheHomeSchoolShop.com).

—from The Rockhouser, 12/2006

SFMS Lodestar: http://www.amfed.org/sfms/lodestar_newsletter.html

FEDERATION NEWS

A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Vol. 60, #1
November, 2006

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

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. 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.

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting

December 22, 2006

The club held its annual holiday party at the Azalea Center on December 22. Turnout was sparse, but those who did attend shared a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, AND a special program as well. Jacolyn Campbell, of Brevard (NC) College provided a slide program on the many places she and her husband have gone gem hunting throughout the United States. She also showed samples of rough material they have collected, as well as beautiful jewelry they have made from their finds. It brought back happy memories to those members who had been to some of the sites, and was inspiring to those who hadn't.

Submitted by: *Julia Larson*, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of Board Meeting

January 2, 2007

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

The minutes were accepted as published, and the treasurer's report was accepted with a minor correction to be made.

The contract for clubhouse renovation is still not finished. Dave and Sue Black will both contact another potential contractor to see if we can finish the work before the permits run out.

Sue Black, and Bill Schmidt reported on the status of the show. The board agreed to have some business card-sized show flyers/coupons printed so members can leave them at restaurants and other areas they visit during the next month.

The newsletter was discussed. Debbie was not present. Dave was going to contact her to see how the newsletter would get printed and mailed this month, since Debbie has a new position and is unable to do this any longer.

Dave said the calendars have been ordered but not yet received. The final cost per calendar is \$5.00.

The new spotlights have been purchased and will be installed soon. Dave will pick up the fire extinguishers this week.

The nominating committee presented the nominees for next year's board. They are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The club had some donations of stamps and videos.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: *Julia Larson*, Recording Secretary

ROCK-A-GRAM

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juliamlarson@earthlink.net

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