

ROCK-A-GRAM



December, 2011



Volume 43, No. 5, Page 1

Holiday Party

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Meet and Greet: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Location:

Clubhouse

4619 69th Street North

St. Petersburg, FL

This is a potluck dinner, which will be held at the clubhouse. This year Kathy Kettlekamp is hard at work planning our party. It is a great time for members to mingle and get to know each other. So come out and join in the festivities.

Each member is asked to bring the following:

- Place setting and eating utensils for each member in your party.
- A dish to share with 10-12 friends
- A small gift for gift exchange (\$5.00 limit)

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!**



Board Members

Pat Davis, President 727-323-2147
Email: outtamygourd@yahoo.com

George Comas, Vice President 727-526-7176
Email: gcomas@tampabay.rr.com

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer 727-321-5732
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Bucky Joseph, 1 yr. Director 727-525-2755

Debbie Bremer, Editor 727-298-0061
Rock-A-Gram Newsletter
Email: bremerlapidary@yahoo.com

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:** 7:00 p.m., 1st Thursday 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:** 7:00 p.m., 3rd Thursday of each month; September - May, at our clubhouse.

President's Message

Twas the night before Christmas
And all thru the shop
Not a rockhound was stirring
There was nothing to dop
The knapsacks were hung
By the hammers and rake
In hopes the next field trip
Brings claims to stake*

Well that's as far as I got with the rockhound version of the poem. My Thanksgiving wish for an activities chair person came true. Kathy Kettelkamp is hard at work planning our annual holiday party. Hope to see you there!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pat Davis, President

*Poem to be continued next year. Suggestions welcome.

New Members

Scott and Gail Archibald
Jennifer Ryan-Molesky

Free Courses Online

<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/>

MIT has some great stuff in their open courseware.

<http://www.bwsmigel.info>

Free Gemology course based more around Geology.

<http://www.gemsociety.org>

One more gemology course, but more technical around geology.

Most information from Jamey Swisher, R.G. in a posting to the Rockhounds list.--from Rock Collector, September 2011, Hound's Howl, December 2011.

We Still Are Collecting Aluminum Cans



Bring your cans to the clubhouse. Our meetings next year will be held back at our clubhouse. If you would like to volunteer to collect these cans for Sue at the general meetings, please let her know. Your help would be greatly appreciated

Please note: Do not put cat food cans with the aluminum cans, unless they are aluminum. Test them with a magnet, if not sure, most of them are not. Also, no aluminum foil or bottle caps.

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer
727-321-5732
Email: sujagems1@aol.com



Show News

It is time again to begin preparation for our show. While vendors have been contacting us for a while and last years dealers received new contracts around July most of the many details start now. First off are fliers and advertising. The notice has gone to the Federation and assorted magazines are getting theirs now. Some fliers are printed and will be available at the December dinner. So please, begin to remember where you put up fliers last year and think where they might additionally go this year. Remember to ask permission first. The mail cards lists will be prepped and I need a volunteer or two to do the typing. I also need everybody to be thinking about where in the show you can give us a hand. The areas are Set-up, Break-down, Information Table, Ticket Booth, Club Table, Hospitality, and Demonstrators. In coming months I'll explain each of these in more detail and I will have the sign up sheets available soon.

Thanks, *Bill Schmidt*

Class Information

Have you signed up for any of our classes this year? If not, you are missing out on a lot!

Barbara Watson will be doing a two-week **loop-in-loop chain class Monday, January 17 and 24.**

Please contact her at watknots@gmail.com to sign up. The silver has already been ordered (before the price went up!). Those who have taken this class raved about it. Barbara will also be doing a class in March. Sign up now to hold your place.

Faceting classes are held on Monday evenings, 6-9 p.m. (*Dave Watson*, 541-2917, or bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com) and Saturday mornings, 10-noon (*Gil Wegad*, 323-8800, or gilbertwegad@gmail.com). There is a maximum of two students per class. Contact the instructors to register.

Dave Watson is also doing a **wire wrap class** on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. - noon. This class needs four students. You will go home with a finished piece ready to wear.

Glass fusing classes are ongoing, the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 7-9 p.m. Contact *Julia Larson* at glassgal0947@gmail.com or 522-1254.

Other classes available include **gem trees** (*Sue Hazelden*) and **kumihimo**, a Japanese weaving technique (*Sue Black*). Contact the instructors or *Julia Larson* for information.

The **cabbing workshop** continues to be open Monday and Wednesday evenings. The club has recently invested a lot of time and money in the workshop, and it's unfortunate that attendance has fallen. Please stop by to take a look and sign up for classes. *Dave Watson or Bucky Joseph* will be there to help, if you need it. Slabs are available for purchase, if you don't have your own. If you need a Saturday class, please ask and we will find someone to open the shop for you.

Julia Larson

UPCOMING SHOWS

January 13-15: Largo, FL

Pinellas Geological Society. 36th Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale, Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. Contact Hugh Sheffield (727) 894-2440. Hours: Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m.

January 14-15: Deland, FL

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society
Volusia County Fairgrounds. St. Rt. 44
Email: fndesign@aol.com.

February 11-12: Merritt Island, FL

The Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club. Symphony of Gemstones Festival, Kiwanis Island Park, 951 Kiwanis Island (on Hwy 520 west of Wal-Mart). Hours: Sat & Sun 10-5. Adult's \$4/day. Demos, door prizes, & lapidary exhibits.

February 25: Lakeland, FL

Imperial Bone Valley, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
First Presbyterian Church, 175 Lake Hollingsworth,
Lakeland Florida
Contact: Jim Reed, 863-644-6665
Email: rocks57@tampabay.rr.com

February 29 - March 1: Panama City, FL

Panama City Gem & Mineral Society
Bay County Fairgrounds, 2230 E. 15th St.
Contact: Joseph Schings, 850-871-1846
Email: mojo 3002 @Comcast.net

March 9-11: Augusta, GA

24th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show – Julian Smith Casino – 2200 Broad St. – Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. ** Fri. March 9th from 10 a.m. —1 p.m. is School Tours Admission: \$3 Adults; Children under 16 Free with an Adult. There will be 50cent Grab Bags, Hourly Door Prices, 25cent Kid's Treasure Dig, Geode Cutting, and Great Prices on Gold & Silver Jewelry, Loose & Set Gemstones, Gorgeous Fossils, Mineral Specimens and More.

Sources: Canaveral Moonstone, December 2011, Hounds Howl, December, 2011.

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
November, 2011
www.AMFED.org

2012 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

California Federation

July 13-15
Riverside, CA

Rocky Mountain Federation

TBA

Eastern Federation

September 15-16
Harrisburg, PA

South Central Federation

August 25-26
Tyler, TX

Midwest Federation

July 26-29
Wayzata, MN

Southeast Federation

TBA

Northwest Federation

May 18-20
Kennewick, WA



WE ARE A LOCAL NON PROFIT CLUB

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
proudly presents their 42nd Annual

Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale

March 2, 3, 4, 2012
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
- ◆ and others



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EXHIBITS
AND
MUCH MORE....**

Directions

- ◆ Manareg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo.
- ◆ From Tampa I-275 cross Howard Franklin Bridge. At Exit 32, take ramp (right) onto SR-688 (Ulmerton Rd). Merge onto SR-688 and keep left. Head West (under US-19) to 66th St. Turn Left (South) onto 66th St. Go to 126th Ave. N. Turn LEFT (East) onto 126th. Building is on the right.



ADMISSION

Donations: \$5.00/adult good for all three days,
Children under 6 FREE, Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00
\$1.00 off admission with this ad. Limit one per person.

FREE PARKING

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

Tube setting tutorial <<http://design.kcjewelbox.com/2011/10/12/tool-timetuesday---tube-setting-tutorial.aspx>>

RING SIZE VARIATIONS

The numerical sizes marked on ring gauges and ring mandrels are often not the same across different manufacturers. If you're using a ring gauge to measure a customer, be sure to compare the markings on the gauge with the markings on the mandrel you use to make the ring. They may not be the same. Also, you may have to adjust a little for the width of the ring shank. If you're making a wide shank ring, the ring generally has to be a little bit larger in diameter than the ring gauge size in order to get a comfortable fit.

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part surface when the hole is deep enough. You can do this either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling one hole correctly, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrap tape around the bit at the surface level.

CUTTING A BOLT

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's always difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult this is. The problem is easily solved by screwing a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. So here's how I do it. Screw a nut onto the bolt, grip the bolt by the piece to be sawed off, saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt. Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt straightens out any damage to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece you're throwing away.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/)

Source: Tips and Trips, December 2011

Geological Trivia and News

by Ed Mattson, The Vug Examiner, Stamford, Ct .Mineralogical Society, December 2011

This was something I read in Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. The site is http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduardo_Avaroa_Andean_Fauna_National_Reserve.



Arbol de Piedra or Stone Tree

It is a national preserve or park in Bolivia located in the south in the Andes Mountains, near the border with Chile and Argentina. It is around 4,300 feet in altitude with higher peaks. Overall, the geology is volcanic and analogies are drawn to Yellowstone National Park. The most famous sight is [Árbol de Piedra](#) or Stone Tree *photo below*, which is shown here. It is called a ventifact, which is a stone or rock that has been shaped by wind erosion.



A granite outcrop almost undercut by sand, Atacama Desert, Chile

Come and Shop at our home –
Annual Inventory Reduction Sale

Open to Rock Club Members,

Where you will find awesome deals!

Wholesale dealers bring your tax ID

8th Annual Rock Yard Sale

January 14, 2012

Amethyst Church \$3.00lb

Kyanite \$5.50lb / 5 lb lots

\$2.00 rock table

Sodalite \$2.50 lb, 10 lb lots

Selenite lamps \$10.00 closeout

Calcite Spheres \$3.50 lb

Turquoise \$35.00 lb – u pick \$45.00 lb

10lb min Satin Spar \$2.50 lb

15 lb min Amethyst Druse \$2 - \$5 lb

Rose Quartz \$3.00 lb

Lavender Rose \$5.00 lb

Gem Trees \$7.50 or 2 for \$10.00

Non Drilled-Dichroic Glass Cabochons \$3.00 each

Pyrite “fools gold” 5 lb min \$2.00 lb / 2” pcs

Pearl strands (white) reg. \$5.00 – sale \$2.50 strand

Cut base agate geodes 44 lb box \$2.00 lb

Indonesian Polished Petrified Wood reg \$6.00 lb / sale \$1.00-\$2.00 lb

Salt Lamps \$10.00 each

Marbles Gems
5240 Dallas Place
Sarasota, Florida 34231
RSVP (941) 922-2135

Directions: From i75 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

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting
November 3, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by George Comas, who chaired the meeting in the absence of the president. Also present were: Dave Schwebel, Donna Mallory, Bucky Joseph, Sue Hazelden, Julia Larson, and membership chair Donna Sapp.

Minutes for the previous meeting were approved as published. The treasurer's report was reviewed and filed for audit.

Donna Sapp presented applications from **Scott and Gail Archibald** and **Jennifer Ryan-Molesky**, which the board approved.

Hospitality/Holiday Dinners: No report

Show: The show chairs were not present. Bill Schmidt had sent an email to the board re-advertising. Nothing was decided since several board members were absent. The "Who We Are" fliers need to be changed to show the meeting location back at the clubhouse.

Building: The roof and gutters were cleaned and some of the trees were thinned. More trimming is still needed. Dave S. installed a new thermostat.

Education: Barbara Watson's loop-in-loop chain class is scheduled for January. The jewelry assembly class did not work out.

Equipment: Dave S is working on a machine for intarsia that currently works as a flat lap. The 600 grit soft wheel is in.

Correspondence: A card was sent to the wife of one of our vendors, who was ill.

Field trip: Vulcan Mine trip is coming up this weekend.

Nominating Committee: Need to start working on next year's slate of officers.

Program: DVD from SFMS and a brief presentation by Dave Watson.

Old business: None

New Business: Sue priced Betty Coe's donations and selected some which will be available for sale in the silver room after the general meeting. EBay: George needs help describing slabs. Julia asked for a light in the glass closet in the office room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
General Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. There were no visitors and 25 members present.

Sue Hazelden gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted for audit. The minutes were approved as published.

Correspondence: No report.

The Tampa Bay Fossil Club may have frequent trips scheduled and we may be able to go with them.

Building: The clubhouse will be tented for termites the Monday after Thanksgiving. We will not be able to get back in until Wednesday. No classes will be held on Monday or Tuesday of that week.

Show: No report.

Education: See Rock-A-Gram for Loop-in-Loop and other classes.

Hospitality: **Kathy Kettlekamp** has agreed to chair this committee. **The holiday dinner will be Thursday Dec. 15 at the clubhouse.** See December newsletter for details.

Equipment: The 24 inch saw needs a sheet metal top fabricated.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

The raffle was held. Those who won something are asked to bring something to donate for the next raffle, which will be in January.

Program: Dave Watson showed samples of river rock that he has cabbed. George showed a DVD about gemstones, how they are mined, cut, and treated.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. After the meeting was adjourned, interested members viewed and purchased some of Betty Coe's donated items.

Submitted by:
Julia Larson, Recording Secretary



**Happy
Holidays**

**To you
All!**

WE THANK OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO VISIT AND PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.

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Clubhouse Class Schedules

FACETING: Mondays 6-9 p.m.
CABBING: Mondays and Wednesdays 7-9 p.m.
FUSED GLASS: Tuesdays, 1st and 3rd, 7-9 p.m.

For further information regarding other classes, contact instructors.

GLASS FUSION: Julia Larson

GEM TREES: Sue Hazelden

KUMIHIMO: (a Japanese weaving technique) Sue Black at 345-8994 or email sueblack@tampabay.rr.com

WIRE WRAPPING: Dave Watson at 541-2971 or email bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

METAL WORKING: Donna Remsnyder at 692-6006 or email dsr75@verizon.net

CABBING (Mon or Wed): Bucky Joseph at 525-2755 or
Dave Watson at 541-2971

CABBING (Sat): Lou Codol, (727-544-3973), George Comas (727-526-7176)
Dave Schwebel (727-547-0364)



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.

General Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April at 7:00 p.m., at our clubhouse, **4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL**. 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 Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Open:

Mondays, 7- 9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 - 8 p.m.

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

Faceting, Silversmithing,

Fused Glass Classes:

1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.