

ROCK-A-GRAM



December 2023

Volume 85

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Rock the Halls!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

We wish you well this holiday season, and hope you and your friends & family have a wonderful season of celebration!

Christmas Dinner!

We hope you will join us for our annual Christmas Dinner on:

Thursday, December 21st at 6 pm

At

Miller's Ale House

7695 113th St, Seminole Fl, 33772

If you didn't get your name on the list, please contact our Dinner Chair, Joann at jknoss@yahoo.com.

If you would like to be included in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift valued at approximately \$10.

President's Message

As we gather together in the spirit of the holiday season, I am filled with gratitude and joy to be part of such a vibrant and passionate community of rock and mineral enthusiasts. This time of year is not only a celebration of tradition and togetherness, but it's also an opportunity to reflect on the treasures that make our club truly special.

Just like the minerals we cherish, each member of our club brings a unique and valuable quality to our collective tapestry. Whether you're an experienced geologist or a budding rockhound, your enthusiasm and dedication contribute to the dynamic energy that defines our community.

As we exchange gifts and good wishes this Christmas, let's also celebrate the diverse rocks and minerals that have fascinated us throughout the year. Like a beautifully cut gemstone or a perfectly formed crystal, our shared experiences and knowledge create a kaleidoscope of learning and camaraderie.

May the holiday season bring you joy, peace, and the warmth of friendship. As we look forward to the coming year, let's continue to explore, discover, and share our passion for rocks and minerals with the same excitement and curiosity that unites us.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with geological wonders, exciting discoveries, and the joy of being part of our incredible Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society.

Warmest Regards,

Pat



Meetings

General meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April, 7:00 pm, at our clubhouse, 4619 69th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

The public is cordially invited to attend these membership meetings.

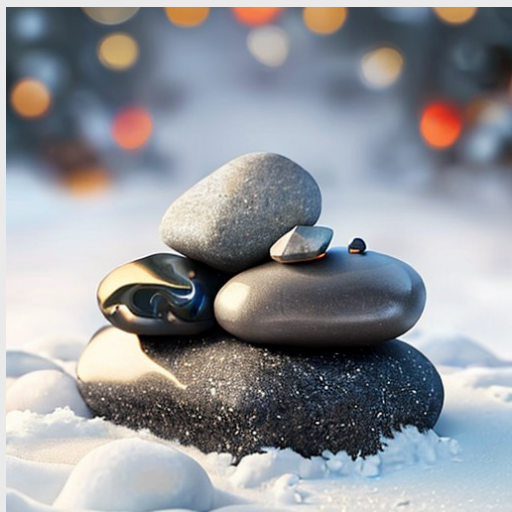
December and May meetings are special, and as such, the time and place of meeting will be announced ahead of time in a bulletin.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, Jan. 18th

Random Rock Facts!

- **Turquoise** has been found in Egypt since the First Dynasty (around 3,000 BCE). It was one of the first gems to be mined and many of the historical sites are still mined to this day.
- **Zircons** may sometimes lose their inherent color after long exposure to bright sunlight, which is unusual in a gemstone.
- **Pyrite** (or iron pyrite) is so named because of its ability to bring forth a spark when struck. It has been used historically as a source of ignition for fires and weapons.
- **Jade** had a special significance in the history of the Chinese empire, making it comparable to the value of gold and diamonds in the west. It is also Japan's national stone.



- **Chalcedony** comes in many colors and varieties, such as agate, onyx, and bloodstone.
- **Moonstone** is the state gem of Florida. The Florida legislature sought to memorialize the moon landing in 1969 (having launched from Cape Canaveral) by adopting moonstone as the state gem. Moonstone is not naturally found in Florida.
- **Hematite** was discovered on the surface of Mars by the infrared spectrometer on the Mars Global Surveyor and 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft in orbit around the planet. Because terrestrial hematite is typically formed in aqueous environments, NASA found this detection scientifically interesting enough to send a Mars rover to study the area.
- **Ammolite** is a gemstone comprised of the shells of ammonites. It is a biogenic gemstone (a product made by or of life forms), like amber or pearl.



SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, November 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

Reports of Officers

Secretary— Minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasury— Treasurer's report was unavailable at meeting time due to technical difficulties but will be presented at the next meeting.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Show — A suggestion was made to put a disclaimer in the newest Rock A Gram with the right time for the 2024 show from 5:00pm to 6:00pm and adding the card invite showing the correct time. The committee needs 2 days, in the future to work on getting grab bags organized and filled as well as filling gem mining sluice bags. The club is still in the need for show/silent auction donations. Please bring them to the club house, there is a form to fill out to record your donations. It is printed out and available in the club house or attached to the Rock A Gram newsletter to be printed out. Some members have already given some really nice donations, this helps out greatly to have a successful show this year.

Activities — Joann Knoss, activities chairperson, talked about the Holiday dinner coming up on December 21st at Millers Ale House in Seminole. A sign-up sheet was available for those wanting to come. Please bring a gift to exchange.

Building — Shamus Walker, building chairperson, discussed having a termite inspection on the club house and property and it was suggested that they have an in-ground treatment done with a 5-year warranty.

The fence needs to be replaced, all at meeting agreed that Shamus would investigate getting estimates for a vinyl fence. Also, the soffits and fascia will need repairs before the building gets painted. Shamus suggested getting the house painted in January 2024, and said we would need volunteers to help with this, the Board will send out a notification for this.

Field trips — Caleb and Addison have a list of field trips that they have researched and got a lot of feedback from the club members on this. Activities chair Joann Knoss also has a list for day trips that she and her activities team has researched as well.

Old Business — Sue Hazelden reminded all present the importance of having our name badges, especially to wear at the show. If you don't have a name badge, please contact Sue, her number is on the website, Board of Directors section. She will then get a badge made for you; the cost is \$3.50.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by:
Susan Clark, Recording Secretary





SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 7th, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis. Board members present were Sue Hazelden, Shamus Walker, Don Schlough, Kelly Nolan, Karen Kulas, Joann Knoss and Susan Clark. Present by phone was Debbie Hamilton.

Reports of Officers

Secretary — A motion by Sue Hazelden to approve the minutes of the November meeting as published in the newsletter was approved.

Treasurer — A motion by Don Schlough to accept the treasurer's report and file it for audit for November was approved.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Building — Shamus Walker measured the fence on the club property and got several ballpark estimates to fix. After a discussion about wood or vinyl it was voted on and approved to get only vinyl estimates done. Shamus proposed to go with a budget of 3,000.00 or less to get it done and Sue Hazelden seconded that motion.

Shamus checked the soffits and fascia and will be getting estimates for their repair before we start the house painting.

Membership — Chairperson, Sandra Whittington sent out membership cards, via email to members. The board discussed, the need to have paper cards printed out and available to members who don't have access to print them out for themselves.

Activities — Holiday Dinner is going to be 6:00pm at Millers Ale House on the 21st of December. Bring along a gift to exchange.

Education — Joann, Kelly and Karen are going through the educational supplies we have and what we need to get the presentations at schools going. They will be collecting examples of rocks for the presentations and to pass out to the children. Club would like volunteers to go through what we have and what we need. A date will be set up for that.

New Business — Kelly discussed the need for a printer for the club house and will research pricing for this and go through prices at the next board meeting. The JoolTool sharpening and polishing machine was discussed for the capping class as another option for polishing rocks and will be researched.

The club was given a basket full of rock and mineral eggs and the board discussed pricing them and having them as one of the items we sell at our club auction coming up in 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.
Submitted by: Susan Clark, Recording Secretary



Class Schedules & Info

Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

CABBING, Workshop & Instruction: Thursdays 12 to 4pm

Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive a text request by Tuesday Evening.

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

In cabbing, participants will learn the basics of cutting, forming, and polishing a simple cabochon.

FACETING/WIRE WRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

Dave Watson 727-541-2917 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Faceting is the art of cutting and polishing angled faces on a gemstone; this class is at a cost of \$65.00 and the student will cut and polish one round brilliant stone.

Wire wrapping basic class allows you to set precious and semi-precious gemstones into simple metal frameworks made out of copper, silver, gold, and other materials.

SILVERSMITHING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Silversmithing class is to help with foundational silversmithing skills and finishing suitable for the novice or those with limited experience.

WAX CASTING: By Reservation, announced by Email Blast to All Members

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Wax casting is a \$50.00 class which includes one 3 inch flask, in two sessions, which involve investing spruced trees in preparation for the burnout process and then melting and pouring into the remaining cavity to produce the cast pieces. Finishing of the cast pieces is minimal and participants are encouraged to attend the silversmithing lab if they would like help in this last stage.



Donations Needed!

Hello!!

If you were at the meeting, you heard us asking for a couple donations. For the past few years we have been saving the rocks that didn't sell and putting them out again. A lot of the rocks we have been offering at the auction and the club table are not the most attractive items that we have available. There are a lot of rocks that look like rocks to the average person walking by. We are asking for any items (two) that you may have that sparkle or have some color or may be of interest to the general public.



This is our opportunity to make some money for the club and maintenance of the clubhouse. Please take this time to look for a couple items that you may have doubles of or something in the back of your closet that would sell for \$5 or more. There are about 400 auction items needed and a whole row of club tables that we need to fill up to make some sales!!

Thank you,

Tom McNaughton

Show Chairman

727-422-6722



Be aware of scams!

We have had reports of some of our club members being reached out to by scammers. These scammers are pretending to be club members or leaders and are asking for gift cards. We want to emphasize that no SGAMS member will ever ask you for gift cards.

Be aware of these 4 common scams

"I thought it was someone from the bank!"

Scammers are professional imposters. They'll pretend to be a relative, a utility company or even Bank of America.

"They said I had an overdue bill."

Scammers want to make you panic and overreact without thinking. A loved one in trouble, a late bill or an amazing deal are all tactics to throw you off.

"She needed my account info right away."

Scammers will want your money fast. They'll tell you to send funds immediately, often via wire transfer or payment apps, where the money is unlikely to be recovered.

"He was so friendly."

Scammers often use social media to deceive. They'll try to befriend you, strike up a relationship, then hit you with exclusive "insider" deals and get-rich-quick schemes.

Please be aware of these scammers.

Do not send them gift cards or money.

Please reach out to us and inform us if you receive an email along these lines.

Included are some tips for scams in general. Be safe, be smart!

Buying a gift card to pay someone? Stop!
It's a scam.

Gift cards are for gifts, not payments.



Report gift card scams at:

[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

For more information, visit:

[Ftc.gov/giftcards](https://www.ftc.gov/giftcards)



FEDERAL TRADE
COMMISSION



Closing Notes & Info

This is the official newsletter of the **SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**, located at 4619 69th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

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.

Dues: \$20.00 for a single person or \$30.00 for a couple/family; paid annually and collected each September.

Benefits: Our club offers shop time to its members at a cost of \$3.00 per hour or any part of the hour. Classes are open-shop with a monitor to provide assistance as needed.

Handling Donations:

Donors are encouraged to bring their donations to the clubhouse during board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September through May), or to membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September through May).

Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.

Julia Larson is the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. Donors can contact Julia at: jmlsgams22@gmail.com, or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave your name and number in order to return the call.



Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Application for Membership

Name: _____
Last Name First Name Spouse's Name

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: () _____ **Email:** _____

Type of Membership: _____ Adult Single (\$20) _____ Family (\$30)

Family means spouse and/or at least one child under 18 living in your home.

WHAT TIME AND TALENTS CAN YOU DONATE TO THE CLUB? (for example: retired; lapidary skills; plumbing; grant-writer, machinist, etc.) :

Reason for Joining the Club (Shared, Interest, Education, Field Trips, etc.) _____
 What other Gem clubs are you (or have you been) a member? _____

Service to the club: In order for your membership application to be considered for approval, you must select at least 1 (one) area below where you have an interest and feel you can be of assistance.

(Indicate all areas where you have an interest and can assist YOUR club)	
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Serve as a Committee Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> B. Serve on a Committee. <input type="checkbox"/> C. Assist VP with monthly membership meeting program. <input type="checkbox"/> D. Work with Field Trip Chairman on club trips. <input type="checkbox"/> E. Assist at annual show: Ticket Booth <input type="checkbox"/> F. Assist at annual show: Information Booth <input type="checkbox"/> G. Assist at annual show: Club Booth <input type="checkbox"/> H. Serve as club officer or board member/ Historian.	<input type="checkbox"/> I. Assisting Newsletter Editor (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> J. Assist with Maintenance of the club house. <input type="checkbox"/> K. Working as a club Instructor (cabbing, faceting, wire wrap, silversmith, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> L. Hospitality for Monthly Meetings (set-up coffee and supplies)

Use of the club facilities is a privilege of membership in SGAMS. Please be prepared to present your membership card when you come in to use the shop or take a class.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SGAMS and mail to:
 Barbara Kirchheimer, 6190 62nd Ave N #2, Pinellas Park, FL 33781 www.sgams.com

Dues Paid? _____ Date: _____

 Membership Chairman Treasurer Date Accepted to Club

Privacy Policy: SGAMS will never sell, trade nor share your personal information received here in any manner and will always protect it and your privacy. Occasionally you will be emailed well vetted offers, publications, or bulletins of interest and in relation to our club, this hobby and similar activities. No officer or member of this club will ever email or text you for money or gift cards, etc., and any such correspondence you receive you should not open, or answer, but report as spam and contact SGAMS with your concerns.

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC [SGAMS]
DONATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms

YOUR NAME (PRINTED)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

EMAIL

() ()

PHONE NUMBER ACCEPTS TEXT? Y N ALTERNATE PHONE #

Separator line

Please provide a description of each item you are donating, and a good faith estimate of its value (required). See note below regarding sales.

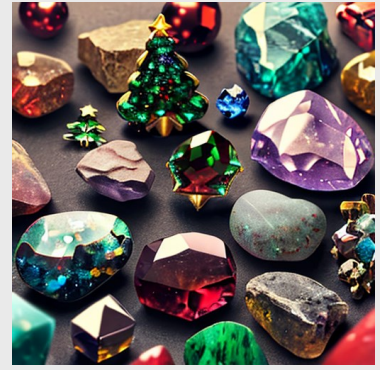
Table with 3 columns: #, Description, Valued @. Contains 12 rows for item entry.

Thank you for your generous donation, as noted above, to be sold or auctioned off for fund-raising. We did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. SGAMS is recognized as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law [generally speaking when a single item is valued at \$250 or greater, please consult a Tax Advisor for the best advice]

Signature _____ Date _____ ev 12/1/2022



Sponsors



We thank our advertisers for their support and encourage membership to patronize them.

JAY'S TREASURES

460 E. LEMON ST.

TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689

813-359-7025





Links



Our Website: www.sgams.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063572437643>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/564631203904814>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies	https://www.amfed.org/
American Lands Access Association	http://www.amlands.org/
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies	https://www.southeastfed.org/
National Parks Foundation	https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks
Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society	https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/
Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society	https://cfmgs.org/
Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society	http://www.bonevalley.net/
Tampa Bay Fossil Club	https://tampabayfossilclub.com/
Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club	https://tampabayrockclub.org/
Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County	https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/
Geology, Rocks, Minerals, Volcano, etc information	https://geology.com/

Next Show: 2024

We hope you will all come join us!

53RD ANNUAL SHOW

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

at the **LARGO EVENT CENTER** (formerly Minnreg Hall)
6340 126th Avenue N, Largo FL

MARCH 1, 2, 3, 2024

Friday, Saturday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm • Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Slabs, Cabochons, Fossils, Beads, Door Prizes, Exhibits and More.

ADMISSION

Donations: \$6.00/Adult 3 day pass • Children under 12 FREE

\$1.00 off admission with this card (limit one per person)

Free Parking • Food Service on Site

