

ROCK-A-GRAM



February, 2011



Volume 42, No. 6, Page 1

General Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2011

Location:

J. W. Cate Recreation Center
5801 22nd Avenue North
St. Petersburg
7-9 p.m.

Program

"ANNUAL AUCTION"

I'm sure you picked up a couple "extra" rocks or treasures over this past year and are ready to donate them to our auction. Donated items don't have to be lapidary related. Don't forget that this is a fundraiser for the club, so bring an item or two that you know someone will want and let's start bidding!

Field Trips Planned—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Leona Sheffield from the Largo club has arranged the following field trips and has invited our club to participate. There will be a sign up sheet at our next meeting for those of you who would like to attend the following:

February 26th: Ruck's Pit

Join Tampa Bay Fossil Club for a day at Ruck's Pit. \$20/person. Meet at pit at 9 a.m. Camping available for \$25/night.tend.

March 26th: Mulberry

Mulberry Museum and Bucket Dig, meet at museum at 10 a.m.

April 30th: Peace River

Escorted tour of Peace River with Mark Renz, \$30/person.

May 28th: Honeymoon Island

Details to follow at later date

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

Board Members

Pat Davis, President... .. 727-323-2147

Email: outtamygourd@yahoo.com

Donna Remsnyder, Vice President

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer 727-321-5732

Email: sujagems1@aol.com

Julia Larson, Recording Sec... .. 727-522-1254

Email: glassgal0947@gmail.com

Dave Schwebel, Corr. Sec. 727-547-0364

Email: dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

Donna Mallory, 3 yr. Director 941-776-9055

Email: dmallory66@gmail.com

Dave Watson, 2 yr. Director. 727-541-2917

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George Comas, 1 yr. Director. 727-526-7176

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Bill Schmidt, 1 yr. Director 727-822-8279

Email: schmidwj@eckerd.edu

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 J. W. Cate Recreation Center, 5801 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL.

It's show time! Your help is needed. The annual show held the first weekend in March is our big fundraiser for the year. Your board and committees have been planning this event for months-ever since the last one was wrapped up. Now it's your turn. Please sign up to help at one or more of the booths during the show. Bill Schmidt will have the sheets at the next meeting.

Also, if you peruse the list of committee people below, you will see that many of the names are listed more than once. SGAMS is like so many other organizations. Things seem to get done by a small group of dedicated people. It is your club. Please don't hesitate to contact those committees where you have an interest in helping out. You might just enjoy it.

Pat Davis, President

Activities

Dinners: Carole Haberkorn

Annual Show: Bill Schmidt

Dealer Contact: Sue Black

Demonstrators: Sue Black

Cases: Dave Schwebel

Hospitality:

Ticket booth:

Information table:

Grab bags: Sue Hazelden

Club table:

Building: Bill Schmidt

Bulletin & Publications: Debbie Bremer

Education: Julie Larson

Equipment: Dave Schwebel

Historical: Donna Mallory

Field Trips: Donna Mallory

Nominating: Donna Mallory

Membership: Donna Sapp

Program: Donna Remsnyder

We Still Are Collecting Aluminum Cans



Bring in your cans, and give to Sue Hazelden at the General Meeting. 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

New Members

Welcome to our club: *Carolee Boyles, Cheryl Pohley, Kate Ciembronowicz; and James Sechler.*



KILN FOR SALE

I have 5 kilns and need to let this one go! Gently used Skutt Hot Shot kiln, 13-inch round kiln shelf, accessories, instruction book, \$450.

Contact *Julia Larson*, glassgal0947@gmail.com or 522-1254.

NOTEWORTHY FEBRUARY BIRTHAYS

By: Diane Dare

Dimitri Ivanovich Mendeleev was born February 7, 1834 in Tobol'sk, Sieberia.

While writing a chemistry book, he wanted to show that all elements are related members of a single orderly system. Knowing the chemical properties of the elements depend upon their relative atomic mass, Mendeleev developed a chart that arranged the elements by both atomic number and related group, with similar elements being on the same horizontal line. Published in 1869, this was the first version of the Periodic Table of the Elements. Updating his Table in 1871, he left spaces for elements that he predicted would be discovered in the future.

Mendelevium (Md, #101), a radioactive element created in a cyclotron in 1955, was named for him. Dimitri Mendeleev died at home in St. Petersburg, Russia on February 21, 1907, while listening to a reading of Jules Verne's Journey to the North Pole.

Charles Robert Darwin was born on February 12, 1809, in Shrewsbury, England, the same day Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky. Many books have been written about both well-known men.

René-Just Haüy was born February 28, 1743 in Just-en-Choisée, France.

While examining a friend's calcite specimen in 1781, this mineralogist accidentally dropped it. Thus, began the science of crystallography! Noticing how it broke along very regular lines, he began to study the structure of calcite, and later, of other minerals.

He determined that crystals were formed of identical tiny units and that the arrangement of the unit faces accounted for visual differences in the crystals. He proposed six primary crystal forms: parallelepiped, rhombic dodecahedron, hexagonal dipyrmaid, right hexagonal prism, octahedron and tetrahedron. René-Just Haüy died in 1822.

References used include:

Illustrated Almanac of Science, Technology and Invention, by Raymond L. Francis (1997, Plenum Press)
Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia (2002)
Random House Webster's Dictionary of Scientists (1998)

GRAVES MOUNTAIN—PRIVATE DIG

A couple members of the Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society are planning a private dig at Graves Mountain on **March 26, 2011**. The idea is to open it up to members of the Central FL clubs. If you or your members are interested, please let me know. You can reach me by email or phone. home 863-644-6665 or cell 863-255-5256.

Since the public swap/dig is Easter weekend this year, this might be a better alternative.

Cindy Reed, Pres.
IBVGM&FS
Polk County

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
December, 2010
www.AMFED.org

2010-11 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

California Federation May 13-15 Anderson, CA	Rocky Mountain Federation June 24-26 Colorado Springs, CO
Eastern Federation July 7-10 Syracuse, NY	South Central Federation December 11-12 DeRidder, LA
Midwest Federation September 8-11 Toledo, OH	Southeast Federation TBA
Northwest Federation July 29-31	

GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS:

Lodestar, January 2011

February 12-13, 2011: Merritt Island, FL

"Symphony of Gemstones"; Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club; Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island Causeway; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, children 12 and under free with adult.

February 18-20, 2011: Vero Beach, FL

Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society, Vero Beach Community Center, 14th Ave & 23rd St (Downtown), Vero Beach, FL: \$4 adults, under 12-Free, Fri. noon-5pm, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm; Beads, rocks, jewelry, supplies, minerals, tools, gems, opals & door prizes.

February 26, 2011: Tallahassee, FL

Show and sale; Prehistoric Florida; Elks Lodge, 276 N. Magnolia Dr.; Sat. 8-3; adults \$3, children free; fossils, arrowheads, displays, sales, fossil identification, authentication and appraisal, books, T-shirts, posters, display cases. Web site: www.PrehistoricFlorida.com

March 11-13, 2011: Augusta, GA

Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society. 23rd Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad St. Hours: Fri & Sat 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.—4 p.m. Admission: \$3 Adult, children under 16 FREE with an adult. www.augustagemandmineralsociety.org.

March 12, 2011: Bartow, FL

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society. Polk County Extension Service Building, Highway 17 S. <http://www.bonevalley.net/>

March 12-13: Tampa, FL:

"Fossil Fest 2011"; Tampa Bay Fossil Club; Florida State Fairgrounds, US 301 and I-4; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; fossils, artifacts, gems, minerals, shells, exhibits, "how to" seminars, kids' games, fossil mine, raffles, door prizes, silent auction; Web site: www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Pre-Show Help Wanted

I need help at the clubhouse the week before the show on February 26. A few tasks need to get done in preparation for the show. Such as; sorting and picking out of pieces from Emily's rock donation, checking that the banner and yard signs are in good repair, checking the supplies for the Hospitality Room and making a need to buy list, checking that the coffee pots all work, and probably a few more things that I haven't remembered yet. If you can help, please let me know at the General Meeting on the 17th or just come by 9:00 to noon and we'll see how fast the work can get done.

It's Show Time!!

By the time you get this issue there will be only be three weeks until we are setting up for "The Show." There are two main things left that members need to do. First, and most important, are the positions that need to be filled to staff the show. I have shifts available in all areas. So let's go through them and better explain what they are. First in the door is the **Ticket Booth**. Here you do the straight forward job of figuring admissions based on adult or student and coupons presented, collecting money, issuing tickets and drawing cards. All the while smiling and greeting people. Next in line is the **Information Booth**. If you are working here, then you are explaining about who we are and the lay out of the show, selling grab bags, our old magazines and booklets for the younger set from Diamond Dan Publications. The last general area is the **Building Booth**. We sell our crates of rocks and minerals and help people with mineral identification. The sales cases need tending, sorting minerals that get mixed up, giving advise to people on techniques, and of course smiling and being helpful. Here it can be the most challenging, as a little bit of everything comes by. The **Demonstrators** are pretty much set. These folks have a table to give hands on demonstrations of their craft, show the results, and maybe even sell a piece or two. Behind the scene during show time are four areas. The **Display Cases** are available for you, to show off your skills and handiwork, of what you like to do. These are a great draw for people to see just what is possible, the things that members do, and some of what can be learned upon joining SGAMS.

There is a case already set up in the clubhouse for you to size up and start generating ideals. Once again, Dave Schwebel is setting up a general case to make sure all skills are covered with items from different members. Also, there is the **Set Up** on Thursday and **Break Down** on Sunday night, which is pretty much self explanatory. The last one is the **Hospitality Room**. Here you can help set up and restock the break room, that we keep for the dealers. You will be keeping watch for supplies needed, getting donuts and a paper in the morning, making coffee and generally keeping an eye on things. Home made goodies or a large dish would be most helpful.

The second and just barely next in importance is our advertising. We need to get the word out to get people to show up. If they don't know about the show and us, there is little chance that they will stumble by and make the split second decision to come in. With the way the economy is still down an interesting experience as inexpensive as we are should be a big draw. But we need to tell people! There are half-sheet fliers printed for handing out and business cards too are waiting at the clubhouse and the General Meeting. Please grab some of these and hand them out to the people you meet. If you can get a blurb in an association, lodge, circle, or business newsletter, that you belong to, please ask about it. For example, the week before the show, I will send a write up to the chat lists of all students, staff, and faculty at where I work. The moderator needs to approve it first, but it has been done every time in past. A family member of mine will be putting a flier and press release notice in the general interest science folder on the Pinellas County Schools website (Elementary section) and has asked the area supervisor to make it available to all sections. How about YOU? A bulletin board where you work or visit? A club or group that you socialize with? A friendly waitress/ waiter where you frequent? Think about it. Over the past four years, we have increased our attendance each year and I want to surpass it this year too.

If you have access to e-mail and want to send notices that way; I have everything on saved on my computer and can send you a copy in just a few seconds to forward along. So, where do you fit in?

Bill Schmidt, Show Chairman

Announcement – Please Post

Feather River Lapidary and Mineral Society, Oroville, CA is pleased to announce the

Third Annual World Rock Tumbling Championship



2010 Winning stones

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST YEAR'S WINNERS!

First place \$250 prize- Jim Miller of Bothell, WA;
Second place \$100 prize - Tom Kuzia of Beacon Falls, CT
Third Place \$50 prize - Susan Oglebay of Ephrata, WA.

www.oroverture.rocks.com

It's time to challenge the champions! The Third Annual Rock Tumbling contest is open to everyone, any age, worldwide, who enjoys tumbling rocks and wants a shot at being the best in the world. Here's how:

- Send in a completed application (below) with a \$40.00 entry fee postmarked no later than May 6, 2011.
- Nevada Royal Jasper mine owner, Randy Messer, has agreed to provide the contest material this year. Each contestant will receive almost 4 pounds of rough sent USPS Priority Mail by the end of May.
- Contestants will have over three months to tumble the rock in a rotary or vibratory tumbler and mail a half-pound (1/2 lb) of the best pieces for judging. The entries must be received no later than September 23, 2011.
- Steve Hart, author of Modern Rock Tumbling, will evaluate each entry on the basis of smoothness, shape, shine and overall appeal. He will select the top five entries to be displayed at the FRLMS Rock and Gem Show held in Oroville, California the first week-end of October.
- Everyone attending the Rock and Gem show will examine the top five entries and cast a ballot for their favorite. The top three popular vote winners will be announced following the show.

1st Place: \$250.00
2nd Place: \$100
3rd Place: \$50

Note to Rock and Gem clubs: Get your club noticed! Consider sponsoring a contestant from your club. This year we will include club affiliation when announcing the name of the winners! Also, this is a wonderful opportunity for your junior members to learn more about tumbling and competition.

(FRLMS is actively seeking a source of tumbling rough for the 2012 contest. Please contact the club at the address below or through the website www.oroverture.rocks.com with suggestions.)

2011 Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

USPS Mailing Address _____

City, State, Country, Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Name of Club: _____

Please mail applications with a check or money order by May 6th to:
FRLMS Contest Headquarters, PO Box 2645, Oroville CA 95965

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting
January 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were: board members; Pat Davis, Sue Hazelden, George Comas, Dave Schwebel, Dave Watson, Donna Remsnyder, and Julia Larson. Also present were: Donna Sapp (membership), Sue Black (show) and Bucky Joseph.

The December minutes were approved as published.

Pat spoke about adherence to Roberts Rules of Order and the need to make use of committees and committee members. Donna Sapp will provide new member information to an appropriate committee chair.

The termite inspection has not been done. Pat will take care of this.

Treasurer's report was accepted for audit. The board approved purchase of a used capping machine by email December 22.

Grab bags for the show will be assembled Saturday, January 22, at 9 a.m. in the clubhouse. Volunteers are needed; knowledge of rocks and minerals is not necessary.

Correspondence: Letter from a member requesting class information was assigned to education chair for response.

Membership: Application from **Carolee Boyles** was approved.

Show: Bill reported we will use the same security firm as last year, 25 cents per hour cheaper. He also discussed advertising deadlines, flyers and business cards, class descriptions and "Who We Are" brochures. Donna Remsnyder will look into posting show information on Facebook.

Sue Black said, vendor tables are full. Demonstrators will have half a table for their demonstrations. Demonstrator guidelines were discussed.

Education: Loop in Loop chain class is scheduled for this month.

Equipment: Purchases recommended by the Equipment committee were approved.

Nominating Committee: The committee is still working on a proposed slate of officers.

Programs: Programs for remainder of year were discussed. The monthly raffle will be reinstated.

New Business: Satisfaction of mortgage (loan) has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

Rocks left from Emily's sale will be available at no charge at her home Sunday at 1 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

**Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting
January 20, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Guests were introduced.

Officers and committee chairs were asked to provide a description of their duties to the president. These descriptions will be used as the basis for formalizing the club's operating procedures.

Treasurer's report was given. Sue said, there are still a few SGAMS t-shirts left if anyone wants one for the show.

Correspondence: Invitation to the City of North Port Environmental Festival was received. The Central Brevard show is February 13-14.

Show: Bill has sign-up sheets for the various activities: ticket booth; information booth; club booth; hospitality; Thursday set-up; and Sunday break down. There will be eight cases for displays. See Dave Schwebel to sign up for a case.

Will Smith, an instructor from William Holland and member of a couple of Tennessee clubs, was introduced. He described the schools they are setting up in the Nashville area.

Education: Loop in Loop chain class is now going on. Lou Codol has agreed to open the shop on the first and last Saturdays, 9 am – noon.

Raffle: We will return to the practice of having a raffle at each general meeting.

Program: Sue Hazelden presented a program on Herkimer diamonds, with films from some of the many digs she went on with her late husband Jack. She had some wonderful photos and samples, as well as some beautiful jewelry Jack had made.

Following the general meeting, the board met and approved applications from **Cheryl Pohley** and **Kate Ciembronowicz**; and agreed to extend the membership of **James Sechler** through September of this year.

Submitted by:
Julia Larson
Recording Secretary



Happy Valentine's Day!

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

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS: \$25.00/year for full space - \$12.50/year for half space

SPECIAL NOTICE:

Spring SFMS Executive Board Meeting

Augusta, GA - March 11 & 12

Host Club - Augusta Gem & Mineral Society

Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Aiken-Augusta Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Show dates are Friday, Saturday & Sunday - March 11-13 at Julian Smith Casino 2200 Broad St., Augusta, GA. The show facility is only about 4 miles from the host hotel.

The host hotel is Clarion Suites located at 3038 Washington Rd., Augusta, GA 30907. Cracker Barrel and the Spring Meeting will be held at the host hotel. To reserve your room please call 706-868-1800 and mention "Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies" to obtain the group rate with is \$79 plus 13% tax. A full breakfast bar is included and is open from 7 - 10 a.m. Also included are 2 drink tickets (either alcoholic or non-alcoholic) to be used at the Manager's Reception Friday evening from 5 - 7 p.m.

We look forward to having all of you in Augusta. Please let me know if there is any other information that you need.

Wayne Parker

Treasurer, Augusta Gem & Mineral Society
706-863-9171 parkerwayne9@comcast.net

Clubhouse Class Schedules

Faceting: Mondays 6-9 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon



Cabbing: Mondays & Wednesdays 7-9 p.m.

Fused Glass: Tuesdays (First and Third only) 7-9 p.m.
Fifth Tuesday, if there should be one.

Loop-In-Loop Chain Making: Contact Barbara via email at

watknots@gmail.com.

THERE WILL BE A SIGN UP SHEET AT THE GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL CLASSES.



The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
a local non-profit club proudly presents:
41st Annual

Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show and Sale

March 4, 5, 6, 2011
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



**DIAMONDS
EMERALDS
RUBIES
14K GOLD JEWELRY
DOOR PRIZES
EXHIBITS
AND
MUCH MORE....**

Directions

- ◆ Minnreg Building 6340 126th Avenue No. Largo.
- ◆ From Tampa I-275 cross Howard Franklin Bridge. At Exit 32, take ramp (right) onto SR-688 (Ulmarten 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. Minnreg Building is on the right.
- ◆ From North on US 19 take 66th Street exit go to 126th Ave., turn left.

FREE PARKING

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

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 7:00 p.m., at J.W. Cate Recreation Center, 5801 22nd Avenue 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 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

By appointment