

February 2021

Volume 59, No. 1 Page 1

President's Message:

This has certainly been the most unusual year our club has ever had. Not being able to have monthly meetings has rendered the club nearly inoperable. That said, the treasurer's report for January showed the club finances are actually in pretty good shape, all things considered. If you paid dues for this year, THANK YOU! If you attended a casting class or worked in the shop, THANK YOU! If you bought anything at our online auctions, THANK YOU! If you bought rocks or slabs at the clubhouse, THANK YOU! If you are a new member this year, THANK YOU! If you donated money or auction items, THANK YOU!

I also want to thank Gerri Groves, our recording secretary, and Pat Church, our treasurer, for their reports. Thanks also to VP Rick Bunton and past president Pat Davis for getting the cab room spiffed up for the Morean classes.

I hope all of you will be able to get the elusive Covid vaccinations in the near future. If things continue to show a downward trend, maybe - just maybe - we will be able to have at least one meeting before summer, perhaps an outside meeting/yard cleanup. Stay tuned and stay safe.

Julia Larson

Julia Larson

Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2020-2021

EMAIL FOR THE FOLLOWING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IS: SGAMS2020@GMAIL.COM

Julia Larson, President 727-410-3781

Richard Bunton, Vice President 570-592-6562

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322

Patricia Church, Treasurer 941-718-0664

Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary 315-380-7037
Email: peechikeene8@gmail.comKelly Nolen, 3 Year Director 440-953-8711
OR 440-346-8705 (no text)Breta McGuire, 2 Year Director 727-744-7344
(PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR A CALL BACK)

Irene Muench, 1 Year Director 727-421-5832

Sherry Staley, 1 Year Director 727-480-6730

Bill (William) Schmidt, Facilities 727-657-0998
and Show ChairDonna Sapp, Membership 727-420-0383
Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com

JoAnn Knoss, Dinner Committee 727-238-8345

Debra Bremer, Webmaster 727-298-0061
Email: bremerlapidary@yahoo.comSusan Biel, Editor, Rock-A-Gram 315-380-7037
Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

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THE ROCK-A-GRAM IS *YOUR* NEWSLETTER -

PLEASE CONSIDER SUBMITTING SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE:
Submit Articles of interest you come across, something you yourself wrote, HOW-TO'S, photos, trivia, jokes, quizzes, etc. (do include credit information if you are not the author/creator)
Email them to:

SUSAN B. @ PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM
DEADLINE IS THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY.

**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY****BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING****DECEMBER 03, 2020**

Zoom meeting was called to order by President Julia Larson at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Julia Larson, Pat Church, Kelly Nolen, Breta McGuire, Rick Bunton, Susan Biel, Sherry Staley and Gerri Groves. Also present was Pat Davis.

Secretary's report. A motion by Susan Biel to approve the minutes as printed, was approved.

Treasurer's report. Pat Church presented the treasurer's report. A motion by Rick Bunton to accept and file for audit was accepted.

Building-Termites have been taken care of at no addition charge. Tree trimming, Rick Bunton will call the company that did his trees and see what they will charge.

Grant & Nancy Walker have a donation they need picked up for the next auction.

Lapidary classes for the Morean School. They have them listed live on their website. We will need supplies for these classes and instructors.

Hyland Park machine need new wheels. A Motion by Susan Biel to cover the cost was accepted.

6" saw someone would like to purchase this item at a cost of \$100.00. Rick Bunton would like to paint the Lapidary Room. Everyone is in favor of this and gave Rick the go ahead.

Next meeting will be January 7, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Gerri Groves Recording secretary

[the above Minutes have not been approved, as there were not enough members present at February 4th Meeting to form a Quorum]

FUN FACTS

Gold is an elemental mineral which is also considered a precious metal. In pure form, it is so soft that it can be shaped by hand. In fact, an ounce of pure gold (roughly the size of a matchbox) can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court, or stretched to create a wire 50 miles long. The largest pure nugget of gold was discovered in 1869, in Australia, and weighed in at approximately 156 pounds – enough to create a gold sheet larger than four football fields, or a wire which could wrap the circumference of earth approximately 5 times!

Pumice is a very light rock – in fact, its name is derived from the Latin word pumex, meaning foam. Pumice is the only rock that floats – though its sponge-like texture will absorb water until it eventually becomes saturated with liquid, and sinks.

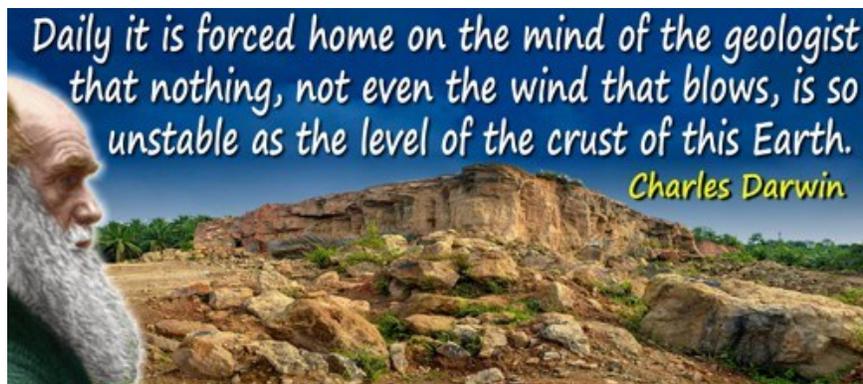


The Incas believed that **rhodochrosite**, which they called Inca Rose, formed from the blood of their former kings and queens. This connection to their royal ancestry led them to associate Inca Rose with the power to resolve inner conflict or problems with grace, and release the suffering of past lives.

The Labrador Inuit have a legend which tells how light fell from the sky, and was trapped in the rocks on the ocean coast. One day, a traveling warrior stumbled across these same stones. Striking the rocks with his spear, he tried to set the light free. He released the Northern Lights into the sky, but some of the light remained trapped in the stone. This is what give **labradorite** its brilliant color, and stunning flashes of light.



[from theArkenstone.com]



Gem of The Month: Amethyst

Amethyst is a variety of quartz that grows in violet hues due to irradiation or impurities in iron. Shades can range from very light, pinkish-purple shades to deep violet tones, and can feature sparkles of red and blue, depending on the trace elements and precision of the stone's cut. Amethyst is one of the rare gemstones that only comes in shades of purple; while quartz takes on many different colors, each color of quartz has a specific name.

Its name derives from the Greek "amethystos", which means "not drunken", as Amethyst in antiquity was thought to ward off drunkenness.

In Greece, the word "geode" means "shape of the earth." Amethyst Geodes are formed when gas bubbles in lava try to rise to the surface but can't due to fast-cooling, thickening lava at the top. The trapped bubbles form hollow cavities. Water that includes traces of silica and minerals below the lava is forced up, penetrating the hollow cavities. Over millions of years, crystals begin to grow inside the cavities according to what minerals were in the water.



Amethyst Cathedrals are a combination of natural crystals and man-made techniques. The geode is cut in half, revealing nature's beautiful work. Then, cement is added on the outside of the geode and along the bottom to form a base. The cement is painted black and the crystals are polished.



Prior to the 19th century, Amethyst was a precious stone since it was as rare as emerald and ruby stones. One large deposits of Amethyst Geodes were found in Brazil, Amethyst was

downgraded to a semi-precious stone.

Throughout history, Amethyst has been known as the Bishop's Stone since it symbolized ecclesiastical dignity. Bishops continue to wear Amethysts on the second finger of their right hand to this day.



Despite its name, the infamous "Delhi sapphire" is in fact a purple amethyst! The stone was stolen from an Indian temple and is said to be cursed! The amethyst was found by a young curator in the British Natural History Museum's vaults, along with a letter from its previous owner warning that it brought bad luck. He ignored the message in the letter, and took the stone to a science symposium, where he was caught in a horrific thunderstorm and fell ill with kidney stones. Despite this amethyst's dangerous reputation, it is currently on display in the Natural History Museum in London.

[from cosmicgems.com, grantsjewelry.com, and thecourtjeweller.com]

Helpful Links:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies web site is at: <http://www.amfed.org>

American Lands Access Association: www.amlands.org

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Website at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

National Park Foundation: www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society: www.canaveral-mgs.com

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society: www.cfmgs.org

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society: www.bonevalley.net

Pinellas Geological Society: www.pgs.rocks

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: <http://www.tampabayrockclub.org/>

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County: www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

An amazing resource is the website: <https://geology.com> — a wealth of information on geology, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, etc. ; maps, and geology products for sale. . .

Our Web Site: <http://www.sgams.com>

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



Are you a member of SGAMS,
and want to promote your busi-
ness?

Place Your Ad Here.

Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only*

* please see CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID, PAGE 10

CABBING: Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 pm

Rick Bunton [ricbunton@gmail.com]

Must receive request by Friday

Thursdays 12 to 4pm

Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive TEXT request by Tuesday Evening

FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

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

SILVER SMITHING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

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

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

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

The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth,

But Not Its Mineral Rights.

~ J. Paul Getty

CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID (revised 11/07/2020)

Dear SGAMS Member

We sincerely hope that all of our members have been staying safe during this most stressful time. Due to the continuing pandemic and County guidelines for COVID-19, the SGAMS Board of Directors made the decision to provide shop time, however, to protect our members and our moderators the number of members allowed in our shops at any time has been limited.

Cab Shop reopening guidelines.

The Moderators emails are listed on Page 9. Interested participants must contact the Moderator by the stated deadline for the day they wish to attend. Please be advised that you must be scheduled for your shop time. If you do not receive permission from your moderator, please do not just show up, for you will be turned away. We must ensure adequate social distancing so only a few members at a time being permitted to attend the Cab Shop session. The moderators will rotate individuals so everyone gets a chance for shop time. We ask for your patience as we develop a schedule that works for everyone.

Silver Smithing Students

For Silver Smithing Students our rules will be similar to the above. Joe Cooper will provide two days each week Tuesday 6 pm till 9 pm and Saturday from Noon till 4 pm.; because of the limited space in the silver room, only two students will be allowed at each work sessions. Joe will send me notification of class times, and when I send the email blast, his email will be included for you to contact him directly—this also applies to Casting Classes.

Please note:

- You must wear a face covering (mask) at all times during shop time or whenever you are within 6 feet of other members.
- As always you are required to clean up all the equipment that you use.
- If you are scheduled for a shop session or class, (please, please, please,) only attend if you are feeling 100% well. If you feel the slightest bit unwell please advise your moderator and stay home. We will all thank you for protecting our moderators and fellow members.

Susan Biel

SGAMS Corresponding Secretary

peecheene8@gmail.com

ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. , 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

~~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.~~ **[NOTE FOR 2020: GENERAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, DUE TO COVID-19]**

Dues: \$20.00 single or \$30.00 couple/family; due annually each September

Feel free to copy any material from this bulletin, but please list all byline credits

If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the Rock-A-Gram, please email it to peecheene8@gmail.com with **"FOR THE ROCK-A-GRAM"** in the subject line, by the first Thursday of the month, between September and May. Thank you! ~ Susan Biel, Editor

*[the club no longer has a Post Office box, and now receives mail at this location]

Webmaster

(Website) **Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**
Debra Bremer
Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com
Phone: (727) 298-0061
www.SGAMS.com

Membership Committee

(Membership)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**
Donna Sapp
Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com
Phone: (727) 420-0383
3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Show Committee

(Show Chair)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**
Bill Schmidt
Email: SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com
Phone: (727) 657-0998
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

Facilities

(Building Supervisor)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**
Bill Schmidt
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4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

Dinner Committee

(Club Dinners)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**
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