

# ROCK-A-GRAM



February 2024

Volume 87

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## Rocks & Romance

Love is in the air!

While we sprinkle a touch of Valentine's spirit, our focus remains on the mesmerizing world of rocks and our club's place in it.

Let's show each other some love, and show love to the club by coming together.

Get ready to fall in love with our upcoming annual show and discover the treasures and memories waiting to be share with others!

### Annual Show

We are in full-swing now, everyone!

Everything is coming together for the show and we hope you will all join in to make this a wonderful experience for all!

We can never have too much help with the show, so please join us if you can!

Let's share our club and our love of rocks, gems, minerals and metals with our show!

## President's Message

Hey SGAMS Club Members!

Guess what? We're putting on a show that's going to be off the charts amazing! But, here's the deal: as your president, I'm swamped with everything on my to-do list. Tom McNaughton, our show chairman, is even busier putting everything together.

Between juggling all the details and making sure everything runs smoothly, we could really use some backup.

That's where you come in! I'm reaching out to our awesome members for a helping hand. Whether it's setting up exhibits, greeting guests, or just lending moral support, your assistance would mean the world to me.

I'm happy to report that the signups for the show are 66% filled! For the benefit of new members another email with the link to sign up will be going out soon. I've also added some explanation about what happens at the various club booths. There are a few more pre-show projects where you can help too. Keep an eye on your email.

Let's make this show one for the ages, and your support will make all the difference. Together, we'll rock this event and show everyone what our club is made of!

Cheers,  
Pat Davis  
SGAMS Club President



## 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, Feb. 15th

The February general meetings will be our annual auction. It promises to be an exciting event! You could score some outstanding items.

Please bring rock-related items to donate to the auction.

Also, bring cash or checks as we are not accepting cards.

All funds raised go to the club.

Plan to attend, bid often & high to support your club!

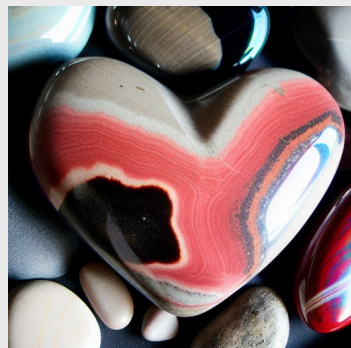
## Random Rock Facts!

- **Fluorite** gets its name from the fluorescence it displays under ultraviolet light, emitting a beautiful glow.
- **Lapis Lazuli** was ground up into the pigment ultramarine, which was more expensive than gold during the Renaissance.
- **Gypsum** is used in plaster of Paris by removing the water content. Plaster of Paris has been used in construction, art and medicine for centuries, making gypsum one of the most versatile and widely used minerals in human history.
- **Mica** was used in ancient times as a material for windows in homes and temples because of its transparency and durability. Due to its heat-resistant and insulating properties, it has a wide range of uses nowadays.



- **Larimar** is only found in the Dominican Republic. It's known for its striking sky-blue to turquoise coloration, often with white veining resembling waves in the ocean.
- **Sphalerite** is used in the production of zinc metal and is also a popular collector's mineral due to its wide range of colors and crystal habits.
- **Apatite** is used as a phosphate fertilizer, in the production of phosphoric acid, and as a gemstone in jewelry. It is named after the greek word "apate", meaning "deceit", due to its wide range of colors and frequent confusion with other gemstones.
- **Rainbow Obsidian** is a type of volcanic glass known for its colorful iridescence caused by internal reflections within the glassy structure. It can exhibit bands of blue, green, purple and gold against a black background.





## SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

### JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 18th, 2023

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

#### Reports of Officers

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

**Treasurer** — A motion by Sue Hazelden to approve the Treasury Report, as read by Karen Kulas, was approved.

#### Reports of Committee Chairs

**Building** — We are still working on getting the property ready for the new fencing, and getting the eaves repaired for the painting of the club house, weather permitting. Any volunteers for carpentry work or clean up would be appreciated. A date for the new fence installation to come. Painting of the building will move to March or April.

**Show** — The grab bags for the show are done, many thanks to the volunteers who put them together. The sluice bags are to be done and we are asking for someone to help with setting up the sluice at the show. All the vendor spaces have been sold with a waiting list for other vendors. Chairman, Tom McNaughton requested the need for a budget to be setup for advertising, security, and a truck to take materials to and from the show. We need someone with Excel knowledge to make a list and labels to send out show invites.

**Equipment** — A Jooltool cutting/polishing tool will be purchased for the cabbing class soon.

**New Membership** — A huge SGAMS welcome to the new members that were introduced at this January meeting.

**Old Business** — **Contact** Sue Hazelden for name badges, it is requested that you wear one at general meetings and the upcoming show. She will have one made for you; the cost is \$3:50.

**New Business** — During the February general meeting we will be having an auction, and the March meeting will be for nominating of new officers for the 2024-2025 year. Both are important ways we can help our club to grow.

**Presentations** — A big thanks to Karen Kulas, who showed a video about the town of Quartzsite, Arizona. Well know destination for rockhounds with the QIA Pow-Wow for RVers, Desert Gardens Annual International Rock, Gem and Mineral Show and several other shows held there yearly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by: Susan Clark, Recording Secretary



## SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

### FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 1st, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

Board members present were Sue Hazelden, Shamus Walker, Don Schlough, Sandra Whittington, Tom McNaughton, Kelly Nolen, Karen Kulas, Joann Knoss and Susan Clark.

#### Reports of Officers

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

**Treasurer** — A motion by Sue Hazelden to approve the treasurer's report was accepted and filed for audit.

#### Reports of Committee Chairs

**Building** — The club now has a brand-new fence around the back yard. Still on the list for to-do's are some repairs to the outside of the clubhouse and a paint job. We have some older equipment available. This equipment needs repair or for parts. We are offering it free to our members. We will have everything ready to go at 6 PM on Thursday February 15 just before our General Meeting which begins at 7 PM. Please come see if there is something you need.

**Show** — As we count-down to our show coming up in March, here are some of our wants and needs. The sign-up list for show duties, filled or needed, is online for volunteers to put in their time slots. There are still quite a few to be filled. We need to sort out, price and box the silent auction and club table items, donations are still needed for both areas. There will be one more meeting of the show committee before the show.

A motion by Shamus Walker to get an email list company to record all participants of the show from last year for our records and mailing out invites to the show was approved.

**Finance** — A budget wish list for the club for 2024 needs to be reviewed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Equipment** — We now have a Jooltool cutting/polishing tool for the clubhouse to add to the machines they already have for the cabbing class. A motion by Sue Hazelden to purchase a dust control, shop vac for that machine was approved.

**General Meeting** — The program for the February general meeting will be the annual auction, our big fund raiser. Shamus Walker will be the auctioneer. The club auction will start at 7 pm on February 15, 2024. We will accept cash or check only.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by: Susan Clark, Recording Secretary

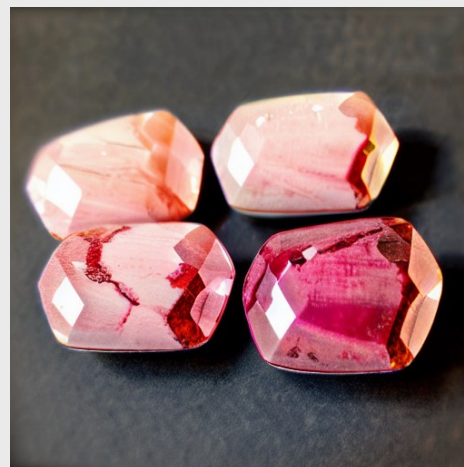
## Help needed for show!

A couple things we still need help on:

### Display Case Assemblers

We still need our members to fill several display cases for our upcoming show. We provide (and set up/take down) the cases and you provide your awesome collection of gem/rock/mineral-related display items. There are photos of some previous displays on our [Facebook page](#).

Please contact our Show Committee Chair Tom McNaughton at [tommcnaughton55@gmail.com](mailto:tommcnaughton55@gmail.com) for more info.



### Volunteering at the Show

We still need volunteers to sign up to work the show!

Check your emails for the sign-up form and pick a few slots that work the best for you. Try to fill open slots first, if possible, so a position isn't left without someone to work it. We would also prefer to have more than one person in each slot so it's not entirely on one person.

This show is what helps keeps us funded throughout the year. It is also the best opportunity to get the word out about our club and attract new members.

Please consider helping us out, even if you can only take one slot.

Let's make this an amazing show!

# Board President Needed!

During the general meeting we discussed the need to fill the upcoming board seats. A member suggested sharing a description of the responsibilities of each position so that members would be able to make an informed decision.

Nominations for the board are made in March, we vote in April, and the new board is installed in May.

**We are looking for someone to be president for the next year, the president must have served at least 1 year on the board.**

The following information was copied from our website:

<http://sgams.com/bylaws/Bylaws.htm>

Please refer to the bylaws on the website for more information.

The Board members meet at 7 PM the first Thursday of each month (except June-August) in the clubhouse.

## Article VI: Duties of Officers

### **Section 1: Duties**

All officers shall perform the duties prescribed in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* in addition to those specified in the bylaws and standing rules of the Society; shall perform such duties as may be requested by the President; and shall send copies of official correspondence to the president. With the exception of the Treasurer, they shall deliver to their successors all material pertaining to their offices by May 1. The treasurer shall deliver all material to the auditors by July 15.

#### **A. The President shall:**

1. preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors; appoint all committee chairs except the Nominating and Auditing Committees, subject to Board of Directors approval; serve on the Finance Committee and coordinate the development of the annual budget; be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nominating and Audit Committees; supervise and coordinate the work of the committees so that a smooth operation will result and the activities are compatible with the purpose of this Society; and appoint assistants to the Treasurer and other officers, if requested.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## 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)

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](mailto: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"/> <b>A.</b> Serve as a Committee Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> <b>B.</b> Serve on a Committee. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>C.</b> Assist VP with monthly membership meeting program. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>D.</b> Work with Field Trip Chairman on club trips. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>E.</b> Assist at annual show: Ticket Booth <input type="checkbox"/> <b>F.</b> Assist at annual show: Information Booth <input type="checkbox"/> <b>G.</b> Assist at annual show: Club Booth <input type="checkbox"/> <b>H.</b> Serve as club officer or board member/ Historian.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>I.</b> Assisting Newsletter Editor (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>J.</b> Assist with Maintenance of the club house. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>K.</b> Working as a club Instructor (cabbing, faceting, wire wrap, silversmith, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>L.</b> 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.







# Sponsors



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

**JAY'S TREASURES**

**460 E. LEMON ST.**

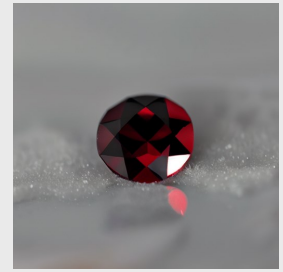
**TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689**

**813-359-7025**





# Links



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

# Upcoming Show: March

We hope you will all come join us!

53<sup>RD</sup> 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

