

ROCK-A-GRAM



January, 2012



Volume 43, No. 6, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Location:

Clubhouse, 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

Program: This month's program is a surprise. Come on out and join us for this special program. Coming up for our February meeting is our annual auction. Start looking for those special items you would like to donate to our auction.

Snacks to Share: If your last name starts with A-M, please bring goodies to our meeting to share. Coffee will be provided.

BENCH TIPS

by Brad Smith

USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in your Foredom, you often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shaft sizes and of course many different drill sizes. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the hand piece chuck.



There's nothing you can do to avoid multiple key turns when opening up the jaws, but there's a neat trick to close the jaws around a smaller shaft. Hold the new bit in the center of the open chuck jaws, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the shaft of the bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips/

Source: Tips and Trips, January 2012

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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.

SFMS Education Update

Kathy Morris, Education Chairperson
Lodestar, December 2011

I would like to thank Lisa Roberts for doing a wonderful job as Registrar for the SFMS William Holland Work-shops the past two years. Lisa had a tough job and handled all situations with tact and courtesy. Thank you again Lisa.

Our new Registrars for the SFMS William Holland Workshops are Addy and Joe DePietro. Addy and Joe have taught for Federation many, many times; know how our Workshops function; and are familiar with many of the students. Thank you, Addy and Joe, for volunteering.

The dates for the 2012 SFMS Workshops are as follows:

Wildacres: August, 20-26, 2012 September 10-16, 2012
William Holland: June 10-16, 2012 October 7-13, 2012

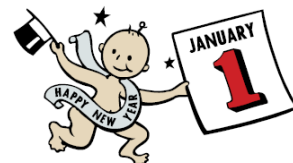
The class schedules will be available January Issue of the Lodestar. Please look for them and sign up for one of our classes. Look for our ad in the Lapidary Journal in January and February.

Welcome New Members:

**Stephen, Paula, Chris and Evan
Kraybill**

Paula works for the State of Florida as a nurse and Stephen is retired. The family has a wide variety of interests and hobbies and belong to several organizations. One of these clubs is called SCA--Society for Creative Anachronism, which deals with the lifestyles of medieval times. They make different kinds of chain mail jewelry, do card weaving and flame work beading, and also shoot archery. Stephen and Paula have taught many classes throughout Pinellas County and are willing to teach or explain any of these subjects to anyone who is interested.

Donna Sapp
Membership
Chair



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: sujagemsl@aol.com

Show News

Well, our gem show on March 2, 3, and 4th will be upon us very quickly. Preparations are on going, and now is the time to step up and help. To recap: The hall has been rented. Sue Black (Dealer Chair) has been signing up dealers and we are full. The fliers were updated by Debbie Bremer, printed and another 500 ½ sheet size are at the Clubhouse for pickup during meetings or classes. The first 500 went to a couple of places: Mr. Frank Cox let us put fliers out at his Thanksgiving and January St. Pete Coliseum shows, Thank You sir. Our dealers that were at those shows took some to hand out also. If you go to the Pinellas Geological Society show this weekend you will see some more. And members have already been handing them out on their own.

Other members are working on the preparations needed before opening day. The grand prize drawing tickets from last year are being imputed into the computer in order to form this year's mailing list. Dave Watson has been working on the floor plan of the show to get everyone and everything to fit in. We are looking for members to fill our display cases once again this year. We have room for four cases right now, and I need 4 members to put together a display and show off your skills and area of expertise. Once again, Sue Hazelden is heading up the grab bags. She will be needing help to fill and

label. Her notice is else where in this issues. So..... where will you fit in?

During the show we need dedicated people to assist and handle the duties in areas like the Ticket Booth, Club Tables, Information Table, set up and breakdown, Hospitality Suite, grab bags, and specimen and material prep. The show hours are divided into 2-hour time blocks for ease of work, which also allows you time to see the show and have the experience of working different areas. I will have sign up sheets available at the next General Meeting, or a phone call or an e-mail from you will work too. Remember, if you work the show, your admission to the show is free and you will need a club T-shirt or a club name badge. At the January meeting I will explain how each area works, so you can see better where you can fit in.

The last thing to mention and yet one of the most important is one that all of us must participate in: Getting The Word Out!!! We must have the people traffic coming in to visit and purchase from our dealers. Last year was a good year and continued our overall increasing attendance. Lets continue and try to top everything this year.

Bill Schmidt

Show Chair

GRAB BAGS FOR THE SHOW

Saturday, January 28th at 9 a.m. we will be putting together the Grab Bags to sell at our show in March.

We need all hands on deck please. The more who help the less time it takes. You do not have to know anything about rocks, just be able to stuff them into the bags provided. Along the way you learn what the rocks are (by reading the labels on them,) and get to know your fellow club members, a plus!

Thanks,

Sue Hazelden



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.

January 28-29, 2012 Panama City, FL

21st annual show; Panama City Gem & Mineral Society; Bay County Fairgrounds; 2230 E. 15th St.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; exhibits, door prizes, gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, lapidary art, wire wrapping, silversmithing.

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 .

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: Star-O-Lite, Volume 48, #1, January 2012.

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

DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING SHOW!



SUNCOAST
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
EST. 1968
PETERBORO, FLA.

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



**DIAMONDS
EMERALDS
RUBIES
14K GOLD JEWELRY
DOOR PRIZES
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.



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

Amber and Copal

The subject of amber can be approached from three different but interlocking aspects. First, it is often a beautiful stone that can be mounted in jewelry, carved as a display piece, or strung as beads in necklaces. Secondly, it has chemical characteristics that help in its identification and/or separation from fakes. Third, it is often formed with the inclusion of specimens from fairly well defined time periods, so it is of interest to paleontologists.



The ultimate of amber jewelry is to have a richly colored amber piece that has a well-defined insect with a beautiful setting as a pendant. The color of amber ranges from colorless to yellow to orange to brownish red to brown. It is transparent and inclusions or air bubbles can often be seen. Most often it is carved or presented with a smooth surface (such as cabs) to bring out its transparency. It may be somewhat fluorescent, particularly at breaks. From a jeweler's point of view, amber is soft (2 - 3 Mohs scale) and easily scratched (white streak test). It is also brittle and can easily break, particularly after aging. There is a wide range of amber prices depending upon its color, clarity, inclusions, and mounting.

Amber is also often imitated at the inexpensive price level using plastics, resins, colored glass. As the potential price gets higher, the sophistication in making fakes increases. When I was at the library, the librarian commented about getting a beautiful pendant from a friend who visited South America. Another friend, who was an entomologist, told the librarian that it contained a modern insect. Even a number of museum pieces have been shown to be fakes. Specifically, a piece of good amber had been drilled out, an animal inserted with an amber-like resin, and the plug replaced.

Amber is fossilized tree sap that is typically about 10 to 140 million years old. As a note, copal is also a semi fossilized material with an age of about one to five million years. Amber has been found in numerous places throughout the world, such as the Baltic, Dominican Republic, Mexico, & China. Each has its own typical age range. Amber formed as the sap that flowed from a tree wound, and it collected plant

remains such as bark, seeds, pine needles, leaves and the like. In some cases, it also collected insects such as flies, ants, spiders, beetles, etc. Even some small animals were trapped in the sap. Much of this collected debris was effectively sealed in and preserved during the fossilization process. In many cases these trapped specimens have become extinct or have undergone mutations such that these species are no longer found today. As a note, not all tree sap could have been converted to amber. The sap had to age under pressure, temperature, the presence of the right microorganisms, and the right rate of decay prior to burial.

A series of tests has been suggested for amber, as follows (note the following section for references):

1. Hardness: Mohs scale of 2 - 3.
2. Hot Needle: a glowing needle when pushed into the sample in a hidden area will melt copal and many plastics faster than amber. Copal has a light fragrant odor and emits sooty fumes while amber may only soften and the smoke is usually dark with an acrid odor.
3. Solubility: Acetone will soften or dissolve copal, but not amber.
4. UV (short wave) light: Amber fluoresces a pale shade of blue while copal shows little change.
5. Friction: On rubbing, copal may soften and become sticky while amber may only emit a slight fragrance of a resin.
6. Flotation (Specific Gravity): Various salt solutions of differing densities will sink or float various plastics, copals and amber. It is best to check references for good guidelines.
7. Inclusions: Check the trapped insects for authenticity.
8. Polarized light: Place the amber between two sheets of polarizing glass or plastic. Rotate the sheets and observe the internal rainbow of colors of the light.
9. Again check the following references and establish a reasonable level of experience before using this as criteria for grading.

Source: Star-O-Lite, Volume 48, #1, January 2012

2011 Annual Christmas Party



Gems For Sale

Kelley Dragon has gems for sale - topaz, aquamarine, amethyst, citrine, iolite, garnets, tanzanite, sapphires, Smokey quartz, and more. Most of them are calibrated, but a few are very large or very small. I can sell individually to members (10% off retail price), or in bulk (40% off). Interested buyers may contact me by email, wise_lady@mac.com.

Canaveral Moonstone
 Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.
 January, 2012, Vol. XXXXVII #1

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting
December 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Present were: Pat Davis, president, board members Sue Hazelden, Dave Watson, Dave Schwebel, Bucky Joseph, Donna Mallory, Bill Schmidt, and dinner chair Kathy Kettlekamp.

The treasurer's report was delayed and will be mailed to board members later this week. The October report was amended and accepted by the board. (Note: The November report was emailed to the board on December 7th; there were no corrections.)

Correspondence: Dave Schwebel mentioned the annual sale at Ralph Marble's Shop in Sarasota.

Membership: There were no new applications.

Dinner: Kathy reported on the holiday dinner.

Show: Bill discussed security issues and vendor changes.

Building: Bill provided new keys for the main building and the shop for board members. The tenting was completed. Also discussed were the need to complete the duct work, lights in outside bathroom and closet in office.

Newsletter: Deadline December 6th.

Education: Upcoming classes will be listed in January newsletter. SFMS workshop dates are now published in Lodestar. Class descriptions should be there also.

Equipment: We still need a cover for the big saw. The intarsia machine will be available soon, along with a new tank for the faceting machine.

Field Trip/History: No report.

Nominating Committee: The group will begin recruiting after the holidays.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Dave Watson suggested having show and tell at the beginning of each general meeting or as part of the program. Hours for shop were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
General Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2011

The holiday dinner was held in lieu of a general meeting. Kathy Kettlekamp chaired the event. The clubhouse was beautifully decorated and the food was great. Thanks to Kathy and to all who attended and contributed their culinary skills.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS for 2012 SFMS WORKSHOP



**The Southeast Federation of
Mineralogical Societies, Inc**

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Please encourage your juniors to apply for the youth scholarships using the criteria below.

When entering the competition:

- President of the sponsoring adult club submits the junior's name with an explanation of the club's qualifications considered in recommending this youth.
- Youth submits a short essay explaining his or her interest in the hobby and reason for wanting to attend a workshop.
- Deadline for applying for the scholarship is **March 31, 2012**.
- Send recommendations should be sent to:

SFMS Youth Resources

Contact: President Jason Hamilton, jasons.designs@comcast.net

When attending the SFMS workshop:

- Permission must be obtained from the workshop director and the class teacher. Usually, this is not a problem.
- Responsible adult must accompany the youth to the workshop.

Following the SFMS workshop:

After attending the workshop of choice, the scholarship recipient is encouraged to write a *Lodestar* article about the experience.

Don't let your junior rockhound miss out! (Source: sfms@amfed.org)

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



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.