

January 2021

Volume 58, No. 1 Page 1

### President's Message:

Just when I thought I was through holding my breath as I waited for 2020 to end...well, there isn't much I can say about the way 2021 has begun. My son-in-law, who works at Tampa General, had arranged for us to get the Covid vaccinations this week. I should have realized that would be just too easy. I got an email Friday night saying the shipment that they were expecting was not going to arrive, and we would be contacted when we could be rescheduled. So I'm back to holding my breath - for that, and for a number of other reasons that somehow just don't seem real.

The Jacksonville club has gone ahead with its show and it will be interesting to learn how many vendors and how many attendees show up. I have no regrets about foregoing our show this year. I thought we might generate interest in doing a general meeting via Zoom, but with only a single response from our membership, it doesn't look like it will be happening. I hope you are keeping your lapidary interest tuned up with a subscription to Rock & Gem until we can resume our third Thursday meetings.

Meanwhile, stay home 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: peecheene8@gmail.com

Kelly 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 Chair

Donna 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.com

Susan Biel, Editor, Rock-A-Gram 315-380-7037  
Email: peecheene8@gmail.com

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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. @ PEECHKEENE8@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

## NOTICES:

### DUES – DO WE OR DON'T WE?

This article is intended to clear up confusion about dues during the Covid-19 induced hiatus of club activities.

Our club fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30 with monthly meetings (no meetings are held from June through August). According to the by-laws, dues are due by September 1, with a “grace” period through December 31. After the grace period ends on December 31, the individual or family membership is considered suspended (i.e., not in good standing). The member/family will be in suspended status through December 31 of the following year. No news-letter will be sent to those in suspended status, their membership card is no longer valid, and they are not permitted to attend classes or use club equipment. Payment of dues during this period will return the member/family to good standing. If dues are not paid by the end of the following December, the member/family is dropped from the club roster and would need to complete a new Application for Membership.

A number of new memberships are received during or shortly after the annual show in March. This year was no exception. Questions inevitably arise when new members pay in March, then receive notice that dues are again due six months later. While it may cause unhappiness and confusion, this policy is according to the By-Laws and cannot be changed without amending the by-laws.

Through the years various boards have struggled with how to handle this situation. This year the Covid pandemic has further complicated things because the club is closed. We have been unable to hold meetings, although access to the shop and classes are available on a limited basis.

Club expenses – utilities, insurance, property tax, etc. – must continue to be paid whether or not the club is open. Class fees cover some, but certainly not all, of the specific expenses incurred by the class. As of 2021, club income will be severely reduced and we will need everyone's dues to help meet the expenses.

### **MARCH SHOW – A “NO-SHOW”**

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society will not host a show in March 2021. After much deliberation, the Board agreed we could not guarantee a safe environment for members, vendors or the public. The vendors from this year's show were notified so they could make their plans accordingly.

While a location for the 2022 show has tentatively been identified, the venue has been closed during the pandemic so we have been unable to negotiate a contract. As soon as the location has been reopened, we will make every effort to secure it for our usual time slot, the first full weekend in March.

Julia Larson, President

## TEST YOUR MINERAL-KNOWLEDGE

Answers are on page 8

1. The mineral phenakite is named after a Greek word that translates to what phrase in English?

- a. to create
- b. to confuse
- c. to understand
- d. to deceive



2. What causes the red color in the mineral corundum?

- a. metal sulfides
- b. radiation
- c. metal oxides
- d. nonmetal oxides



3. The metal cobalt is named from the German word "Kobalt" or "Kobold" meaning what in English?

- a. imps or gremlins
- b. fire or temperature
- c. aliens or extraterrestrials
- d. earth or land



4. What mineral are bones and teeth composed of?

- a. apatite
- b. calcite
- c. chlorite
- d. aragonite



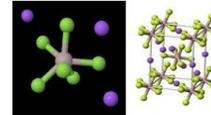
5. About what percent of the mined world diamonds are suitable for gem use?

- a. 40 - 50%
- b. 70 - 80%
- c. under 10%
- d. 20 - 30%



6. What mineral has an index of refraction so close to water that when placed in water it becomes invisible?

- a. calcite
- b. cryolite
- c. sylvite
- d. Halite



7. What mineral is derived from an ancient name for brass?

- a. azurite
- b. malachite
- c. aurichalcite
- d. hydrozincite



8. What mineral paved the way for the invention of fiber optics?

- a. colemanite
- b. bixbyite
- c. howlite
- d. ulexite



All I'm saying is that minerals are just a rudimentary form of consciousness whereas the other people are saying that consciousness is a complicated form of minerals.

~ Alan Watts



## Helpful Links:

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

American Lands Access Association: [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)

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

National Park Foundation: [www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks](http://www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks)

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society: [www.canaveral-mgs.com](http://www.canaveral-mgs.com)

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society: [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org)

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society: [www.bonevalley.net](http://www.bonevalley.net)

Pinellas Geological Society: [www.pgs.rocks](http://www.pgs.rocks)

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: [www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County: [www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://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>



## ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE

1) D to deceive

Phenakite is named from a Greek word for "to deceive" because it was long confused with quartz and other minerals that appear similar. A British specimen, pictured in an 1811 work, was described as white tourmaline for twenty years before it was recognized as a new mineral.

2) C metal oxides

Pure corundum is clear in color. The gem colors of corundum are a result of minor metal oxide impurities; ruby is colored by chromium oxide.

3) A imps or gremlins

Kobalt or kobold is named from a myth that imps or gremlins lived underground and teased the miners.

4) A apatite

Bone and teeth have essentially an apatite structure and composition. Apatite has a hardness of 5, compared to a diamond which has a hardness of 10.

5) D 20 - 30%

Only around 20 - 30% of the mined world's diamonds are suitable for the gem trade. The remaining ones are used for industrial purposes such as saw blades or abrasives.

6) B cryolite

Cryolite has a low ability to bend light, being close to water in that aspect. When placed in water it appears invisible; however it will eventually dissolve since cryolite is soluble in water.

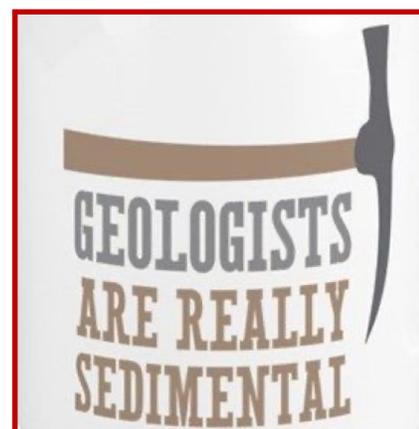
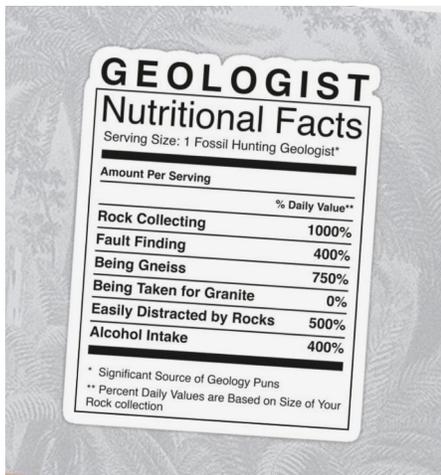
7) C aurichalcite

Aurichalcite is derived from an ancient word meaning brass. It actually is so close to brass alloy, that it could be considered as a natural brass ore. It is a very rare mineral so it probably will never serve this purpose

8) D ulexite

Each fiber of ulexite transmits light and images, thus it paved the way for the invention of fiber optics by transmitting images along a bundle of threadlike crystals.

(from funtriva.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 business?  
  
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](mailto: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](mailto:bremerslapidary@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (727) 298-0061  
[www.SGAMS.com](http://www.SGAMS.com)

### **Membership Committee**

(Membership)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Donna Sapp  
Email: [DSapp43@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Facilities**

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

### **Dinner Committee**

(Club Dinners)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
JoAnn Knoss  
Email: [sgams2020@gmail.com](mailto:sgams2020@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 539-6388  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL