

ROCK-A-GRAM



January 2024

Volume 86

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Happy New Year!

As we embark on a new year, let's explore the diverse world of rocks, from the joy of discovering them to the creative pursuits of shaping and crafting. Let the creative and transformational spirit of rocks inspire hope and passion for the future!

Annual Show

We are steadily gearing up to run our annual show and it's all hands on deck!

The show is in March (1st—3rd), and we need help wherever we can find it. This show is what keeps the club afloat during the year, so if you can help even a little, the assistance will not go unnoticed.

Special Message:

I would like to thank Sandra Wittington, Liz Francie, Tom McNaughton, Dee Selby, Fred Perrone, Pat Davis, Karen Kulas & Mike Kulas for coming out on Saturday morning to put together grab bags for the club show. You all did a great job and the club thanks you.

Sincerely,
Sue Hazelden

President's Message

Buckle up, Folks!

It's time to get serious about putting on our annual show. This is the big fundraiser that keeps us going.

The dates are March 1st through March 3rd.

That's only **6 weeks** away!

The grab bags are done, but we **still need help!**

We need silent auction items organized, gem mining bags need to be filled, door prizes found, slabs cut, rocks priced, etc.



Please watch your email for announcements about show preparation activities and sign-ups to staff the booths at the show. There are lots of ways to get involved. And the side effects are pretty good; you might learn something or make a new friend!

Meetings

Pat



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, Jan. 18th

This meeting will include an informational video about the town of Quartzite, Arizona.

Quartzite is a rock-lover's dream destination!

Random Rock Facts!

- **Garnet**, January's birthstone, is used as an abrasive in water jets, which can be used to cut through material, including metal up to 12 inches thick.
- **Charoite** is primarily found in Siberia, Russia, and was first discovered in the 1940s. It gained wider recognition in the 1970s, when the purple stone was officially recognized as a distinct mineral.
- **Red Beryl** is extremely rare and has only ever been found in the southwestern United States. A 2 carat red beryl is said to be as rare as a 40 carat diamond, and the stone itself is considered a thousand times rarer than gold.
- **Aragonite** is the mineral normally found in pearls. It is also found in caves as stalactites and in iron ore deposits.



- **Cubic Zirconias** have many industrial uses; windows, filters, prisms, laser elements, lenses, and even as scalpels that are said to have an edge sharpness better than that of steel.
- **Celestine** is one of the principal sources of the element strontium, which is used in fireworks to produce a vibrant red color.
- **Clinohumite** was first discovered in 1876 in the limestone ejecta of the Mount Vesuvius volcano complex. This gem is sporadically mined and remains one of the rarest gemstones, with only a few thousand carats known to exist in private collections.
- **Sardonyx** was typically used by Romans, who wore carved amulets of it emblazoned with the image of Mars, the God of War, as they entered into battle. This was believed to bestow courage.



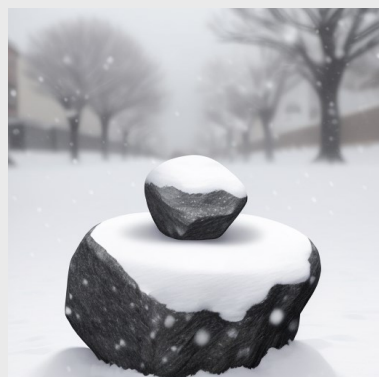
SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, December 16, 2023

We had our annual holiday dinner!
We hope you join us next year!





SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 4th, 2023

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

Board members present were Sue Hazelden, Kelly Nolen, Karen Kulas, Tom McNaughton and Susan Clark. Present by phone was Debbie Hamilton.

Reports of Officers

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

Treasurer — To be emailed to board for review.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Building — The old fence is being taken down and more yard work is needed around the property. We are getting two quotes for survey work to give the chosen supplier for the new fencing installation.

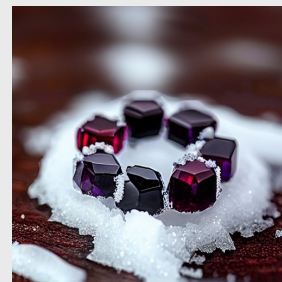
Show — Chairperson, Tom made a visit to Keep Pinellas Beautiful to promote our show and will be going to other organizations to get the word out about the upcoming show. Silent auction and club table donations are still needed to raise money for the club and will be greatly appreciated. We will also be looking for members who own trucks to volunteer for transportation of club materials to and from the show. Show sign-up emails will be coming soon for a listing of spots open for volunteers to help during the show.

Activities — The holiday dinner was well attended, and the food was very good. The board will be on the lookout for a venue for the next get together in May.

Equipment — The board approved a motion to buy a Jooltool cutting/polishing tool for the clubhouse to add to the machines they already have for cabbing.

New Business — During the general meeting, Karen Kulas will show a video about the town of Quartzsite, Arizona. There is the QIA Pow-Wow, Desert Gardens Annual International Rock, Gem and Mineral Show and several other shows held there yearly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.
Submitted by: Susan Clark, Recording Secretary



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

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

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

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.

Donations Needed!

Hello!!

If you were at the meeting, you heard us asking for a couple donations. For the past few years we have been saving the rocks that didn't sell and putting them out again. A lot of the rocks we have been offering at the auction and the club table are not the most attractive items that we have available. There are a lot of rocks that look like rocks to the average person walking by. We are asking for any items (two) that you may have that sparkle or have some color or may be of interest to the general public.



This is our opportunity to make some money for the club and maintenance of the clubhouse. Please take this time to look for a couple items that you may have doubles of or something in the back of your closet that would sell for \$5 or more. There are about 400 auction items needed and a whole row of club tables that we need to fill up to make some sales!!

Thank you,

Tom McNaughton

Show Chairman

727-422-6722



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/report-fraud)

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

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC [SGAMS]
DONATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms

YOUR NAME (PRINTED)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

EMAIL

()

()

PHONE NUMBER ACCEPTS TEXT? Y N

ALTERNATE PHONE #

Separator line

Please provide a description of each item you are donating, and a good faith estimate of its value (required). See note below regarding sales.

Table with 3 columns: #, Description, Valued @. Contains 11 rows with dollar signs in the Valued @ column.

Thank you for your generous donation, as noted above, to be sold or auctioned off for fund-raising. We did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. SGAMS is recognized as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law [generally speaking when a single item is valued at \$250 or greater, please consult a Tax Advisor for the best advice]

Signature _____ Date _____ ev 12/1/2022



Sponsors



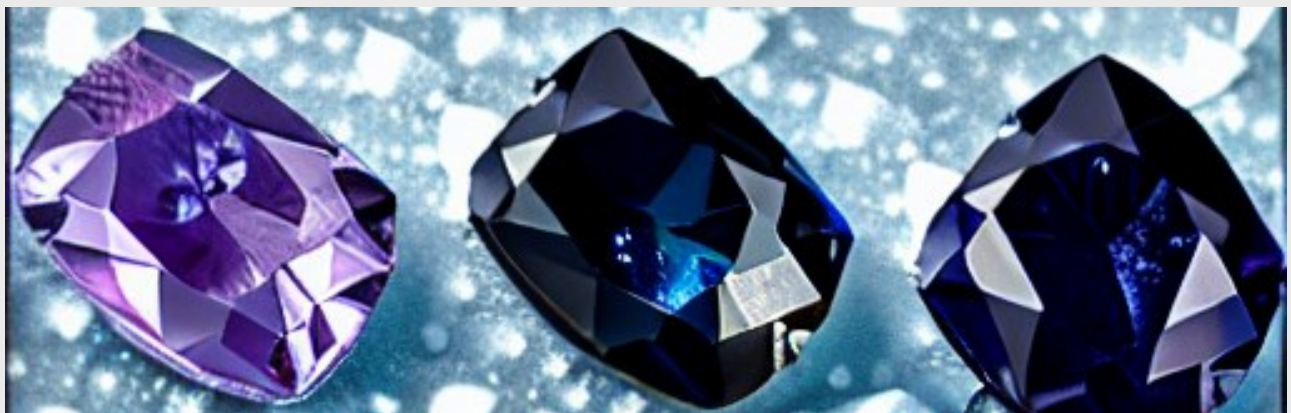
We thank our advertisers for their support and encourage membership to patronize them.

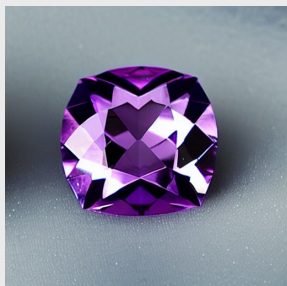
JAY'S TREASURES

460 E. LEMON ST.

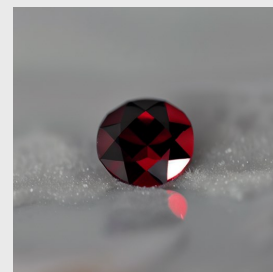
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689

813-359-7025





Links



Our Website: www.sgams.com

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063572437643>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/564631203904814>

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

Upcoming Show: March

We hope you will all come join us!

53RD 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

