

# ROCK-A-GRAM



June-September, 2011



Volume 43, No. 1, Page 1

## General Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2011

### Location:

Clubhouse

4619 69th Street North

St. Petersburg, FL

## Program

### *What Did You Do Over The Summer?*

*Bring in items you collected over the summer, or what you have made.*

*Did you go to a mineral mine out of state?*

*Did you travel to some far off land?*

*Tell us about it!*

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It's September and DUES ARE DUE once again. Please give them to the membership chairperson, or Sue Hazelden, Treasurer at our General Meeting.

**DUES ARE DUE!**  
**\$15.00 Individuals—\$20 per family**

**If your last name starts with A-M, please bring goodies to our meeting to share.**

## Board Members

*Pat Davis*, President.. . . . . 727-323-2147

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Rock-A-Gram Newsletter

Email: [bremerslapidary@yahoo.com](mailto:bremerslapidary@yahoo.com)

**SGAMS Clubhouse Address: 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, [www.sgams.com](http://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.

## President's Message

Hi All!

Welcome back. Hope your summer was full of adventures and pretty rocks. It promises to be great fun hearing about the things people found to get in to over the summer. We acquired some new machines and equipment last year. The Education Committee is hard at work organizing a class line-up for the season. Be sure to let Julia Larson know what you want to see on the schedule.

The meeting place has been moved back to the clubhouse this year. See you there!

Pat Davis, President



## Upcoming Field Trips

### October 6, Thursday

Jackson Crossroads Amethyst Mine, Tignall, Ga, 9:00 a.m., \$25 a day for more information, contact Donna Mallory, [dmallory66@gmail.com](mailto:dmallory66@gmail.com) or cell 727 480-6366, home 941 776-9055.

### October 8, Saturday

Vulcan Mine, Brooksville, FL  
See Leona Sheffield or sign up at General Meeting.

### October 7, 8, & 9 Friday- Sunday

Graves Mountain Rock Swap & Dig, Lincolnton, GA, see full page ad in this newsletter. [www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm](http://www.gamineral.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm)

## 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.

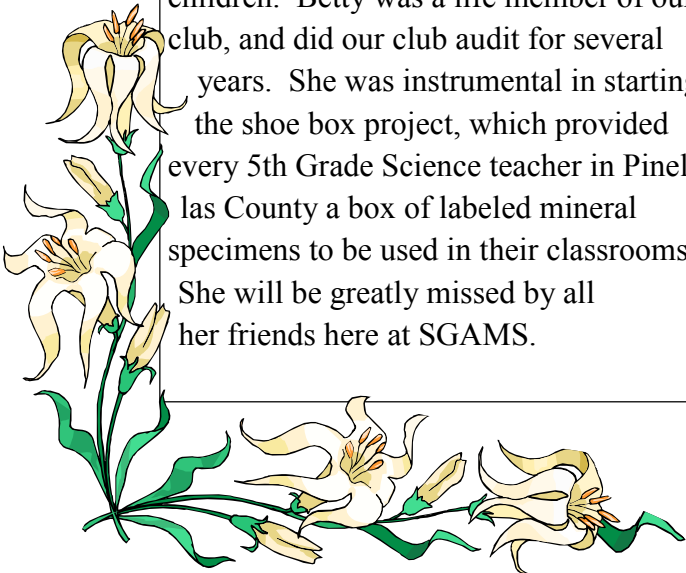
*Sue Hazelden, Treasurer*

727-321-5732

Email: sujagems1@aol.com

## Deepest Sympathy

*Betty Coe, 79*, passed away unexpectedly on May 22. She is survived by daughters, Cynthia Crawford and Ginny Shinn, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grand children. Betty was a life member of our club, and did our club audit for several years. She was instrumental in starting the shoe box project, which provided every 5th Grade Science teacher in Pinellas County a box of labeled mineral specimens to be used in their classrooms. She will be greatly missed by all her friends here at SGAMS.



## Welcome New Member

Jerri Heer, James Smith, Russell Britton

## Rock and Gem Magazine

Rock and Gem magazine know that you're already a member of a rock, gem or mineral club! Hopefully, you're familiar with their magazine, as they have been in print for 40 years and are the premier magazine for rock and mineral enthusiasts and hobbyists around the world.

### Here's the deal:

A normal subscription to Rock and Gem Magazine is \$27.95 per year (12 issues). With this new special subscription offer for club members only, new subscribers or current subscribers renewing will be eligible for a standard one-year subscription for only \$22.95! In addition to saving you \$5.00 off the regular subscription rate, Rock and Gem magazine will contribute \$6.00 per paid subscription directly back to our club treasury. This is 26 percent of the subscription price directly back to our club! This price is valid through Dec. 31, 2011.

### What's so special about Rock and Gem?

Their knowledgeable writers provide up-to-date editorials each month and their photographers capture the essence of the beauty of the specimens they feature. From beginners to the seasoned hobbyist, Rock and Gem is the "definitive source" for the hobby. Even teachers in earth science classes use Rock and Gem for instructional purposes.

At our general meeting we will have applications for this magazine. We need to send in all applications together in order to receive \$6 or \$12 back for a one or two year subscriptions to R&G for each member's subscriptions. So bring your check or cash to our general meeting and subscribe to this unique magazine today.



## Items for Sale

### Mineral Rock Collection

Hi. My name is Ken and I have inherited an extensive collection of mineral rocks/stones. This is an older collection dating back to the 40's 50's etc. Many are polished and of various sizes and shapes. There are some Indian arrowheads, rattle snake eggs etc. I'm interested in selling this collection and will consider reasonable offers. I can be contacted at.

Ken Boudreau Sr., kenandaudrey7@yahoo.com  
Phone: 772-489-2468

### Riker Boxes—Glass tops—Made in USA

2-1/4" x 3" = \$2.50 each

4-1/2" x 3 1/4" = \$2.90 each

5 1/2" x 4 1/2" = \$3.10 each

6" x 5" = \$3.80 each

12" x 8" = \$5.50

16" x 12" = \$6.50

Discounts on 10 or more

Maas Polish—2 oz. (\$5.00) 4 oz. (\$10.00)

Jack Hauser— Phone: 727-520-5720

## FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
September, 2011  
www.AMFED.org

### 2011-12 Regional Federation Shows

#### California Federation

July 13-15  
Riverside, CA

#### Rocky Mountain Federation

TBA

#### Eastern Federation

September 15-16  
Harrisburg, PA

#### South Central Federation

TBA

#### Midwest Federation

July 26-29  
Minnetonka, MN

#### Southeast Federation

TBA

#### Northwest Federation

May 18-20  
Kennewick, WA



## UPCOMING SHOWS

### September 16-18, 2011: Jacksonville, FL

Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society. 23rd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Show & Sale, Morocco Temple, 3800 St. John's Bluff Road. Hours: Fri 1-6, Sat 10-6, & Sun 10-5. Adults \$3/day admission or \$5 for weekend.

### October 29-30, 2011: Stuart, FL

St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616SE Dixie Hwy., Stuart, FL

### November 5-6, 2011: Melbourne, FL

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society, Parade of Gems, Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Ave., Melbourne, FL.

### November 19-20, 2011: West Palm Beach, FL

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL.

Source: Canaveral Moonstone September 2011 Vol. XXXXVI No. 8

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**

◆ Mimmeg Building, 6340 126th Avenue North, Largo.

◆ From Tampa I-275 cross Howard Franklin Bridge. At Exit 32, take ramp (right) onto SR-688 (Ulmerston 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.



**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

## FIELD TRIP

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

### Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

8 am to 6 pm, Friday, October 7, 2011, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

8 am to 6 pm, Saturday, October 8, 2011

8 am to 6 pm, Sunday, October 9, 2011

*"You are invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"*

The caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., has announced plans to hold two three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain during 2011. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 am to 6 pm each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 pm each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

#### **Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:**

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

**Mark your calendar and tell all your friends about this great event!**

**THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL.  
NO NEED TO SIGN-UP, JUST SHOW UP!**

#### **Contact Information:**

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) - 706-359-3862 (his business) or 706-359-2381 (his home)

#### **Directions:**

From Washington Georgia, drive 11 miles on SR-378, or from the Hardee's in Lincolnton, Georgia, drive approximately 5-1/2 miles west on SR-378. Look for a sign at the entrance to Graves Mountain on the south side of the road.

#### **Motels and Camping:**

Cullars Inn, Lincolnton, Georgia, 706-359-6161

Soap Creek Lodge, Clarks Hill Lake, Lincolnton, 706-359-3124

Elijah Clark State Park, 706-359-3458 / 800-864-7275

**Lots of Graves Mountain information, including reports and pictures, may be obtained on the Georgia Mineral Society website: <http://www.gaminerol.org/commercial-gravesmountain.htm>**

**The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
Lodestar, July, 2011**

**Some Restrictive Orders on National Forest Lands**

**By Carl Talbott, Lodestar Editor**

National forest lands in the southeast region are managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Chief and his various state Forest Supervisors and their staffs of district rangers within each forest (see [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us) for a list of national forest lands within each state). Often, Forest Supervisors issue written orders to regulate activities within their respective forests, and these orders can be found on web sites for appropriate national forests. Violation of these orders is punishable (in federal court) by fine and/or imprisonment.

Some of these orders are unusual and may not apply uniformly across all national forest lands. For example,

- Cherokee National Forest (in Tennessee) Order #331 restricts access to Wilderness areas listed therein in terms of group sizes of more than 10, 12, or 14 people. It also prohibits possession or use of wagons, carts, or other vehicles within these Wilderness areas.
- National Forests in North Carolina (Pisgah, Nantahala, Croatan, and Uwharrie) Order #04-16-2010 prohibits possession or use of metal detectors, electronic apparatus and devices use for locating metal except in national forest areas specifically designated as open for this use (e.g. sand beach area of Jackrab-bit Area Swim Beach).
- National Forests in Alabama (Conecuh, Talladega, Tuskegee, and William B. Bankhead) Order #2007-00-07 prohibits acts of public nudism. However, any Federal, State, or Local Officers or members of any organized rescue or fire fighting force, in performance of any official duty, are exempt from (sic) this order.
- National Forests in South Carolina (Francis Marion and Sumter) Order #08-12-00-09-06 prohibits prospecting for hard rock minerals, including panning for gold, per 36 CFR 261.53(c). Now, 36 CFR 261.53(c) says —when provided in an order, it is prohibited to go into or be upon any area which is closed for the protection of ... objects or areas of historical, archeological, geological, or paleontological interest|. It appears that South Carolina gold must have some special historical or geological value unknown to most placer gold hunters.

## Bench Tips by Brad Smith

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/> or <http://facebook.com/BenchTips>

### Bench Tips

#### SOLDERING PRONGS

I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But they're a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them upright while soldering, and what looks like a strong joint sometimes turns out to be a fake. There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone. I solved both problems with one little trick. Locate and center punch the location for each prong. Then drill holes just a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and insert them in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

#### TWISTING WIRE

Twisting wires together can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Dremel or Foredom should do well. Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Fasten the ends of the wires in a vice and slip the other ends on your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.

Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with a variable speed control.

#### SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own ear wires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, a silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy or fast. Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip.

### Lapidary Hints and Tips

#### DROP OF WATER TEST FOR TOPAZ

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and are sometimes impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. There is a big difference in price between the two and anyone describing quartz as "topaz", however innocently, may well be in trouble. Topaz is quite a different mineral, which is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz but will spread on quartz. Clean the stone as effectively as possible with a cloth or handkerchief to remove all trace of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a spot of clean water on it with a thin glass or metal rod.

On stones with a hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. Oh harder stones it will remain a globule. The harder the stone the more rounded will be the globule.

Stoney Statements 6/11 via The Rollin Rock, 11/

#### STORAGE

Need somewhere to store your 6" sanding and polishing discs? Use an inexpensive music CD case. They fit in the pockets perfectly, and you can label each pocket with a different grit number.  
<http://www.rocks4u.com/lapidaryhint.htm>

#### CUTTING HINT

Turn your blade around (for multidirectional blades only), and sharpen it after every 25 hours of use. This will extend the life of your blade and help prevent "dishing" and "warping". You may find that you need to sharpen your blade more often.

To sharpen your blade, cut a sharpening stone. These are usually made of aluminum oxide. For blades 10" and smaller, use a 0.5" x 0.5" stone. For blades 12" and larger, use a 1" x 1" stone.

<http://www.rocks4u.com/lapidaryhint.htm>

**Source:** Star-O-Lite, Augusta Gem and Mineral Soc, Vol. 47, No 6, June 2011

## Petoskey Stone - Michigan's State Gemstone

By: *Patricia McNutt*

Richard and I just returned from one of our trips to our home state of Michigan. While this trip did not allow time for rock hounding, we enjoy rock hounding & collecting Petoskey Stones and other Fossil and Minerals while in Michigan.



You can find many varieties of coral in Michigan. There is one variety; however, the Petoskey Stone Colony Coral (genus *Hexagonaria*) which is "native" to Michigan and is found in only one or two other places in the world.

Michigan designated the Petoskey stone as the official "state stone" in 1965. The Petoskey Stone is a coral that lived 350 million years ago during the Devonian age when the northern part of Michigan was covered with a sea of warm water.

The gem takes its name from the old town of Petoskey, where in the early days many agates and Petoskey stones were cut and polished and sold locally to the tourist trade.

You can find the unique Petoskey stone along the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron; but it is most prolific around the city of Petoskey.

The gems from each of these localities vary. Some are harder and of different shades of gray, some quite light, and some too dark for the "eye" of the coral to show well when polished. Most specimens are water-worn. They range in size from small pebbles to fist-sized specimens.



The attractive appearance of the Petoskey stone is due to the internal structure of the coral. Each individual coral, or corallites', forms a rough hexagonal pattern. The radiating lines within each corallites are called septae.

Petoskey stones take a very good polish and make nice jewelry. While fine Petoskey stone specimens are not as plentiful as they were some years ago, it is not difficult to gather this material today. It is best if you can collect right after a rainstorm, as the pattern can easily be recognized on the stones, which otherwise are usually gray and dull and easily mistaken for ordinary rocks.

The Petoskey stone, Michigan's state gemstone, makes the northern part of the Lower Peninsula an excellent place to take a rock hunting trip. This fossil is just one of many varieties of fossils and minerals which can be found in Michigan.

References' utilized during the writing of this article: Petoskey Chamber of Commerce; Wikipedia; Michigan State Symbols, Photos courtesy [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

**Source:** *STAR-O-LITE, Augusta Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Volume 47, No 6, June, 2011*

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.

For further information regarding other classes, contact instructors.

**GLASS FUSION:** Julia Larson

**KUMIHIMO:** (a Japanese weaving technique) Sue Black at 345-8994 or email [sueblack@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:sueblack@tampabay.rr.com)

**WIRE WRAPPING:** Dave at 541-2971 or email [bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com)

**METAL WORKING:** Donna Remsnyder at 692-6006 or email [dsr75@verizon.net](mailto:dsr75@verizon.net)

**CABBING (Mon or Wed):** Bucky Joseph at 525-2755 or  
 Donna Mallory at 941-776-9055

**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**

By appointment