

ROCK-A-GRAM



March, 2013



Volume 44, No. 7, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Location:

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

Program

"CINDY'S CUTTLBONE CASTING"

This is an instructional DVD on cuttlebone casting. It's a jewelry technique somewhat like the one Will Smith demonstrated at our January meeting.

This exciting DVD teaches you the melt-and-pour process and the techniques and equipment you'll need to create stunning, unique jewelry. This environmentally safe process allows you to recycle and reuse gold, silver and PMC clay in an economical way with minimum of equipment. You'll have fun while quickly and efficiently crafting fabulous jewelry.



2014 Officer Nominations

President: Julia Larson
Vice President: Dave Schwebel
Treasurer: Jerri Heer

Recording Secretary: Gerri Grovers
Correspondence Secretary: Donna Sapp

3 Year Director: Dave Watson
2 Year Director: Pat Davis
1 Year Director: Holly Dodson

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all who have indicated a willingness to step up and help determine the direction of our club. We need everyone's support, if we are to continue to expand and grow. If there are any nominations from the floor, please contact the nomination committee, Dave Schwebel at 727-688-3966 or Donna Sapp at 727-420-0383 and we will make sure your nomination is placed on the ballot. The term of office is 1 year, so please be prepared to accept a position, if you are called upon next time. Dave Schwebel and Donna Sapp, Nominating Committee

If your last name starts with N-Z, please bring goodies to our meeting to share. Thank you.

Board Members

Julia Larson, President. 727-522-1254
Email: glassgal0947@gmail.com

Dave Schwebel, Vice President 727-547-0364
Email: dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

Jerri Heer, Treasurer. 419-344-9999
Email: jheerx6@aol.com

Stephen Redden, Recording Secretary 727-546-2052
Email: yahwah777@yahoo.com

Donna Sapp, Correspondence
Secretary. 727-420-0383
Email: dsapp43@yahoo.com

Pat Davis, 3 Year Director/
Past President 727-323-2147
Email: wayouttamygourd@gmail.com

Dave Kane, 2 yr. Director 727-799-2352
Email: DAVIDMKANE@yahoo.com

Dave Watson, 1 yr. Director. 727-541-2917
Email: bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

Bucky Joseph, 1 yr. Director 727-252-8142
Email: gambler1946@aol.com

Debbie Bremer, Editor 727-298-0061
Rock-A-Gram Newsletter
Email: bremerlapidary@yahoo.com

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.

President's Message

After missing last month's deadline, I am making a concerted effort to be on time for this issue. Since I have taken on the job of editor for the Pinellas Geological Society's *Outcroppings*, I have a lot to keep straight. It seems I can never have enough reminders around. I recently joined the 21st century with the purchase of a smart phone, and I am learning to use its calendar feature. It's an improvement on sticky notes, but it's still a struggle.

If you are planning your summer collecting trips, check out the SFMS announcement about the Glendon Quarry trip in Glendon, NC on May 4. Space is limited to 120, so register soon if you want to go.

We raised \$351 in our auction last month. As you travel this summer, keep the 2014 auction in mind when you come across interesting bits and pieces. I hope you had a chance to visit our show. It was one of the best ever. The display cases were outstanding, and I'm glad I wasn't a judge. I couldn't have chosen winners, if my life depended on it. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the show a success; and a very special thanks to **Lou Codol**, who donated the gorgeous Helenite pendant and earring set that was the grand prize.

Julia Larson,
President

Grand Prize Winners Were:

Fused Glass Plates: *Teresa Cherry*

14kt and CZ Pendant: *Greg Canales*

Helenite Pendant and Earring Set: *John Laframboise*



Enameling Class

Kiln Fired Enameling Class will meet on Wednesday afternoons from noon to 4. Please contact Pat Davis to sign up, as space is limited. The basic class will cover the fundamentals of sticking glass to metal. Then we can move on to other fun techniques like "Spoon Goo," (wet packing), sgraffitto, cloisonne and more! Class fee \$15 covers everything you need to get started. Additional materials will be available for purchase from the instructor.

Stay tuned for details on the upcoming Torch Fired Enameling Class

Pat Davis, Director
727-323-2147

Show Committee "After Auction" Meeting

The show committee will meet **Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m.**, at the clubhouse to discuss this year's show and begin planning for 2014. While we have a small core group of folks on this committee, we need input from everyone who has ideas and suggestions. Please attend if you can. (We may even feed you!)

Lanyard Contest Winners

Holly Dodson took first place in the lanyard contest with an intricate bead and wire creation. **Cheryl Anne Day-Swallow's** green lanyard and matching earrings placed second. **Brenda Harrelson's** orange and white confection won third place, and **Sandra Twomey** got honorable mention. Thanks to all who participated, and thanks to **Donna Sapp** who organized the contest. Remember to wear your badges to the meetings, with or without a fancy lanyard. There is a 25-cent fine if you forget!

Lazy Days of Summer

If you will be hanging around town this summer, watch your email for announcements regarding summer projects at the clubhouse. We plan on re-doing the case liners, and we need to identify the slabs in the cabbing room. These will be inside activities, so the hot weather won't be an excuse!

Show News, March 2013

I wanted to thank everybody for a great show again this year. I would like to name each and every one who volunteered their time, vehicle, baking, talents, early mornings and late nights but it was too many to be sure that each person was properly noted. So, would you help me out? You all saw each other there, so please remember the special people that you are.

Our attendance was again stellar this year. We increased from last year, the second year in a row. So were again above the 2008 level and fully recovered from the economic downturn.

The demonstrators showed loop chain work, gem trees, wire wrapping, cabbing, faceting, beading. I think the demonstrators are one of our important areas as it shows exactly how and demystifies what we do. Most of the new members that signed up during the show spent most of their time at the demonstrator's tables.

The display cases were great and varied as usual. I would like to see more members showing off their work. It could be your best work in one area, a general display or possibly a static demonstration. Think about it for next year. We have lots of cases available and some liners too.

Also, if you have anything that you think needs improving about the show, or could be added, should be dropped or just observations, please send me a note. You'll see a lot of things that I did not and we need to continually improve the show. There will be another meeting of the Show Committee to wrap up this show and start for next year. Everybody is welcome and we will be at the clubhouse on Tuesday April 9th.

Speaking of dates. We already have the contract on the Minnreg Hall for 2014 and it's for March 7th, 8th, and 9th. Go ahead and pencil us in.

Thank you,
Bill Schmidt

Upcoming Shows

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows.

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates>

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

Daytime Shop Session:

Jerri Heer and Pat Davis are offering daytime cab shop hours on Wednesdays from 12-4pm. If you are a beginner and need initial instruction, please contact Jerri Heer in advance at 419-344-9999 or

jheerx6@aol.com.

If daytime works for you, come down to see us and enjoy machine time with little competition!



FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

December 2012 - January 2013

www.AMFED.org

2013 Regional Federation Shows and

California Federation

May 31- June 2
Ventura, CA

Eastern Federation

June 1-2
Plainview, NY

Midwest Federation

April 6-7
Lincoln, NE

Northwest Federation

August 16-18
Butte, MT

Rocky Mountain Federation

May 17-19
Sandy, UT

South Central Federation

August 17-18
Bossler City, LA

Southeast Federation

September 20-22
Jacksonville, FL

Gem Tree Classes

Beginning and Advanced Gem Tree Classes will be offered in April. Instructor: Jerri Heer. Jerri has been making, designing and teaching Gem Trees for well over 15 years. The beginning class fee includes class time (2 1/2 - 3 hours), and all materials to make a 9 branch tree. The advanced class fee includes class time, and materials to learn and make a variety of different branch types, as well as patterns to make a number of special tree types.

Beginning Gem Tree Class - April 10, 2013

6 - 8:30/9pm. Students will learn basic techniques and make a small gem tree with a variety of materials provided. Additional materials will be available for purchase. Class fee: \$15.00 to be paid before class begins.

Advanced Gem Tree Class - April 24, 2013

6- 8:30/9pm. Students will learn advanced techniques and treatments, make a variety of leaf/branch styles, receive a variety of special tree designs, and learn how to plan and design their own trees. This class is designed for individuals who have experience with making basic gem trees and wish to expand their knowledge. Additional materials will be available for purchase. Beginning Gem Tree class is a pre-requisite. Class fee: \$15.00 to be paid before class begins.

Please register by contacting: *Jerri Heer* at 419-344-9999 or jheerx6@aol.com.
Deadline to register is Monday, April 8 for Beginning Class, or Monday, April 22 for Advanced Class.

Silversmithing Class

Don Roberts will have a class on **Tuesday, March 19th**, 6 - 9 p.m. (Subject to minimal attendance)
Contact: Sandy Schwebel for information, (727) 547-0364 or dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com.



Monthly Bench Tips

By Brad Smith

Brad Smith is moderator of LAROCKS and teaches jewelry making in Santa Monica, California.

BEZEL SETTING PROBLEMS:



When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face. In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch. If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE:

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate. An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the often found brown grime floating on the top of a pickle pot.



NEWS ITEM - Trillions in Diamonds Russia has just declassified news that will shake world gem markets to their core: the discovery of a vast new diamond field containing "trillions of carats," enough to supply global markets for another 3,000 years. The Soviets discovered the bonanza back in the 1970s beneath a 35-million-year-old, 62-mile diameter asteroid crater in eastern Serbia known as Popigai Astrobleme. <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2012/0917/Russia-reveals-shiny-state-secret-It-s-awash-in-diamonds>

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith can be found at:

Facebook.com/BenchTips or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/Brad Smith has also written a book, Bench Tips for Jewelry Making, 101 Useful tips from Brad Smith, available on Amazon.

Source: Canaveral Moonstone March 2013 Vol. XLIX No. 37



Welcome New Member:

Chara Free

A great big welcome to Chara for joining our club.



Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting
February 7, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Dave Schwebel, in the absence of the president.

Board members present were: Dave Schwebel, Jerri Heer, Stephen Redden, Donna Sapp, Pat Davis, Dave Kane, Dave Watson. Education Chair, Sandy Schwebel was also present.

Jerri Heer presented the treasurer's report, which was accepted for audit. Minutes from January meetings were not available.

Committee reports were presented: Budget, Show, Education, Equipment, Building, and Membership.

A motion to renew the contract to hold show at the Minn Reg Building in 2014 was made by Dave Schwebel. The motion was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by:

Stephen Redden, Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
General Meeting
February 21, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Reports were given by the education chair, treasurer, and show committee.

The annual auction followed, raising a little over \$300.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Note: Following the meeting, a new member, Chara Free, was approved by the board.

Submitted by:

Stephen Redden, Recording Secretary





The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
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Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

April 26 - 28, 2013, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

October 4-6, 2013, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

"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 a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during April and October of 2013. 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.

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. (Junior) – 706-359-3862 (his business) or 706-401-3173 (his cell), Jim Flora, SFMS Webmaster and Field Trip Chair
Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>, E-Mail: jimflora@windstream.net

THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL SFMS CLUBS and the GENERAL PUBLIC!

Mark your calendar and tell all your members about these two great events!

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area(at the end of the paved access road but not much beyond the woods to the right of this road).
- CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Digs" IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER STRICT ADULT SUPERVISION!
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- The caretaker, Junior Norman, has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!
- NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA!
(The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)
- EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)

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



Clubhouse Class Schedules

(As of March, 2013)

CABBING: Mondays, 6-9 p.m.

Dave Kane (727) 799-2352 or davidmkane@yahoo.com

Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m.

Dave Schwebel (727) 547-0364 or dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

Wednesdays, Noon - 4 p.m.

Jerri Heer (419) 344-9999 or jheerx6@aol.com

Pat Davis (727) 323-2147 or wayouttamygourd@gmail.com

ENAMELING: Wednesdays, 12 - 4 p.m.

Pat Davis (727) 323-2147 or wayouttamygourd@gmail.com

Sandy Schwebel dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

FACETING: Mondays, 6-9 p.m.

Dave Watson (727) 541-2917 or bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

FUSED GLASS: Contact instructor*

Julia Larson (727) 410-3781 or glassgal0947@gmail.com

GEM TREES: Jerri Herr (419) 344-9999 or jheerx6@aol.com

KUMIHIMO: Contact instructor*

Sue Black (727) 345-8994 or sueblack@tampabay.rr.com

METALWORKING: Contact instructor* Don Roberts flmetalsman@yahoo.com

WIRE WRAPPING: Contact instructor* Dave Watson (727) 541-2917 or bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

Cost for classes (except faceting) is \$2.50 per hour plus any additional supplies.

*Please contact instructor to set up start date and schedule. Each class has a separate minimum number of students needed to start a class.

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, 6- 9 p.m.

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, 12- 4 p.m.

Faceting, Classes:

Mondays, 6-9 p.m.