

ROCK-A-GRAM



March, 2011



Volume 42, No. 7, Page 1

General Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2011

Location:

J. W. Cate Recreation Center
5801 22nd Avenue North
St. Petersburg
7-9 p.m.

Program

“Geology of Barrier Islands”

by: *Ranger Tim Marshall*



Don't miss the program on the *Geology of Barrier Islands*, presented by **Ranger Tim Marshall**. Ranger Marshall will bring specimens to go along with a slide show concerning the eco-systems of Honeymoon Island. Come find out how the islands were formed, where in the world the sand comes from, and what type of corals can be collected there.

Field Trips Planned—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Leona Sheffield has arranged the following field trips. There will be a sign up sheet at our next meeting for those of you who would like to attend the following:

March 26th: Mulberry

Mulberry Museum and Bucket Dig, meet at museum at 10 a.m.

April 30th: Peace River

Escorted tour of Peace River with Mark Renz, \$30/person.

May 28th: Honeymoon Island

Details to follow at later date

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

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 J. W. Cate Recreation Center, 5801 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL.

President's Message

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to everyone who helped make our show such a success. I tried to name them all and the list looks like a good part of our membership roster. Many people took on multiple projects and pitched in at a moment's notice. A lot of good things happened that I don't know who to thank for.

Our dealers went home happy. The positive, cooperative atmosphere created by our members did not go unnoticed. With comments like "best show I've ever done", "just keep doing what you are doing", and "I want the same space next year" I think we got it right.

Thanks to all who transported stuff, brought food, staffed tables and booths, demonstrated and explained and to all who offered suggestions about how to make it better next year. If you didn't see me writing it down on the paper bag I used for notes, please call or email me. There were so many good ideas. I can't wait to compare notes with Bill Schmidt, our Show Chairman.

Also, congratulations are in order for our members who put together the cases.

Best in Show: *Donna Remsnyder*

First Place: *Dave Watson*

Second Place: *Julia Larson*

Third Place: *Lou Codol*

Pat Davis
President



We Still Are Collecting

Aluminum Cans

Bring in your cans, and give to Sue Hazelden at the General Meeting. 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

Working together, Bunsen and Kirchhoff developed the technique of “spectrum analysis.” Bunsen’s burner was used to heat metal salts for analysis. Kirchhoff announced the invention of the spectroscope in 1859. This device greatly advanced chemical analysis by revealing that chemicals can be identified by the light they emit when heated. Bunsen and Kirchhoff showed that all elements, heated to incandescence, have their own characteristic spectrum or color of light. Using spectroscopy, the pair discovered the elements cesium (CS, #55) and rubidium (RB, #37). Kirchhoff was also able to determine the composition of the sun.

Robert Bunsen died in 1899: Gustav Kirchhoff died in 1887.

Welcome New Members

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Judy Ater | Norman & Dawn |
| Jim Crooks | Helfand |
| Lucile Cobb | Rob & Carol Hume |
| Jane & Vincent Collie | Kim, Bob, Robert and |
| Margie Colwell | Jacob Keane |
| Charles Connors | Dand & Greg Kovac |
| Larry Denman & | Brian Manty |
| Jeff Hudson | Jerome Rubel |
| Pamela Fink | Tammie Smith |
| Nancy Graver | Stephen & Andrea |
| Barbara & Jerry | Kryston |
| Harrington | |

Georg Bauer was born March 24, 1494 in Glauchau, Saxony (Germany)

Considered the father of mineralogy, he trained as a physician and knew the medicinal uses of minerals. This led to a curiosity about mining technology and products of the Earth. He described mining and metallurgical processes in the book *De Re Metallica*, illustrated with woodcuts and published in Latin in 1556 (a year after his death). As was the scholarly practice of his time, his name as author was Latinized to Georgius Agricola.

His book was the first on mining based on actual field research and observation, and became the standard text on smelting and mining. It was translated into English in 1912 by American mining engineer (and future president) Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou Henry Hoover. Georg Bauer/Agricola died in 1555.

NOTEWORTHY MARCH BIRTHAYS

By: *Diane Dare*

Robert Wilhelm Bunsen was born March 31, 1811 in Gottingen, Germany.

As a result of a laboratory explosion while working with arsenic compounds, he lost sight in one eye and almost died of arsenic poisoning. He was the inventor of the Bunsen burner.

Gustav Robert Kirchhoff was born March 12, 1824 in Kaliningrad, Germany.

References used include:

Illustrated Almanac of Science, Technology and Invention, by Raymond L. Francis (1997, Plenum Press)
Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia (2002)
Random House Webster’s Dictionary of Scientists (1998)

GRAVES MOUNTAIN—PRIVATE DIG

A couple members of the Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society are planning a private dig at Graves Mountain on **March 26, 2011**. The idea is to open it up to members of the Central FL clubs. If you or your members are interested, please let me know. You can reach me by email or phone. home 863-644-6665 or cell 863-255-5256.

Since the public swap/dig is Easter weekend this year, this might be a better alternative.

Cindy Reed, Pres.
IBVGM&FS
Polk County

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
December, 2010
www.AMFED.org

2010-11 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

| | |
|---|---|
| California Federation May 13-15 Anderson, CA | Rocky Mountain Federation June 24-26 Colorado Springs, CO |
| Eastern Federation July 7-10 Syracuse, NY | South Central Federation December 11-12 DeRidder, LA |
| Midwest Federation September 8-11 Toledo, OH | Southeast Federation TBA |
| Northwest Federation July 29-31 | |

GEM AND MINERAL SHOWS:

Stones and Bones, Vol. 8, Issue 3, March 2011

March 12, 2011: Bartow, FL

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Society. Polk County Extension Service Building, Highway 17 S. Web site: www.bonevalley.net

March 12-13: Tampa, FL:

"Fossil Fest 2011"; Tampa Bay Fossil Club; Florida State Fairgrounds, US 301 and I-4; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; fossils, artifacts, gems, minerals, shells, exhibits, "how to" seminars, kids' games, fossil mine, raffles, door prizes, silent auction; Web site: www.tampabayfossilclub.com

March 25-27:--ORLANDO, FL

42nd annual show; Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society; Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W. Colonial Dr.; Fri. 1-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, students \$2, sluice mining, faceting demonstrations, silent auctions, gem identification, Kids' Korner, mineralogist on site, door prizes, grand prize.

Web site: www.cfmg.com (\$1 coupon at http://www.cfmg.org/uploads/March_2011_Flyer.pdf)

Gem Tree Class—Sign Up Today!!!

I am trying to get together a Gem Tree class. There are a couple of new members who are interested in taking one, but I need a few more participants. If you would like to join us, please contact me at 321-5732. It will probably take about 3 sessions, and we can decide together, which day or evening would best suit everyone.

Sue Hazelden



Obsidian

Obsidian is a naturally occurring volcanic glass formed as an extrusive igneous rock. It is produced when felsic lava extruded from a volcano cools rapidly without crystal growth. Obsidian is commonly found within the margins of rhyolitic lava flows known as obsidian flows, where the chemical composition (high silica content) induces a high viscosity and polymerization degree of the lava.

Obsidian is mineral-like but not a true mineral because, as a glass, it is not crystalline; in addition, its composition is too complex to comprise a single mineral. It is sometimes classified as a mineraloid. Though obsidian is dark in color similar to mafic rocks such as basalt, obsidian's composition is extremely felsic. Obsidian consists mainly of SiO₂ (silicon dioxide), usually 70% or more. Crystalline rocks with obsidian's composition include granite and rhyolite.

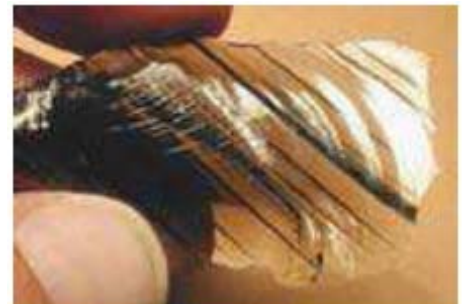
Because obsidian is metastable at the Earth's surface (over time the glass becomes fine-grained mineral crystals), no obsidian has been found that is older than Cretaceous age. This breakdown of obsidian is accelerated by the presence of water. Obsidian has low water content when fresh, typically less than 1% water by weight, but becomes progressively hydrated



when exposed to groundwater, forming perlite. Tektites were once thought by many to be obsidian produced by lunar volcanic eruptions, though few scientists now adhere to this hypothesis.

Pure obsidian is usually dark in appearance, though the color varies depending on the presence of impurities. Iron and magnesium typically give the obsidian a dark green to brown to black color. Very few samples are nearly colorless. In some stones, the inclusion of small, white, radially clustered crystals of cristobalite in the black glass produce a blotchy or snowflake pattern (*snowflake obsidian*). It may contain patterns of gas bubbles remaining from the lava flow, aligned along layers created as the molten rock was flowing before being cooled. These bubbles can produce interesting effects such as a golden sheen (*sheen obsidian*) or an iridescent, rainbowlike sheen (*rainbow obsidian*).

Pliny's *Natural History* features volcanic glass called "Obsidianus", so named from its resemblance to a stone found in Ethiopia by one Obsius. From a mythical perspective, many considered obsidian a useful stone to be used as a powerful talisman that enhanced psychic ability, and many a Shaman used it in ritual along with carrying it on their person. Later in time, black obsidian was much sought after for use as scrying mirrors. During the Elizabethan Era, the famous magician, alchemist, mathematician and astrologer, Dr. John Dee, is said to have utilized an obsidian scrying mirror. For physical healing, Obsidian has been known to dissolve blockages and banish stagnation of any kind. It can ease aches and pains, lessen phobias, and relieve stress, depression or grief, and can generally bring clarity to the cause of a disease while working to dismantle it.



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
GLENDON QUARRY—North Carolina
Saturday, April 23, 2011 - 8 a.m. till 3p.m. sharp!

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE: After you have supplied all of the required information in an email back to the SFMS Field Trip Committee [sfms@amfed.org], the Committee will assign a registration number and resend your email back to you as your admission ticket to this field trip. Each registration number is assigned to only one collector. If your form has two or more registration numbers, then that is the number of individuals allowed in to the field trip on that registration form. Also, R.T. Vanderbilt Co. will require everyone to fill-in and sign a company liability release form before entry.

ONCE THE 120th REGISTRATION NUMBER IS ASSIGNED, THIS FIELD TRIP WILL BE CLOSED. YOU MUST BRING YOUR ACCEPTED REGISTRATION FORM TO BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE QUARRY. IF YOU CAN NOT MAKE THIS FIELD TRIP, PLEASE SEND US A CANCELLATION EMAIL .

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

This field trip is open to members of SFMS affiliated clubs which have paid third party liability insurance through the SFMS/EFMLS or other insurers. A link to the current list of paid clubs can be found on the SFMS website at the "What's New" webpage.

Only list related family members, couples, and significant others - all non-related individuals must submit a separate form.

NO children under the age of 12! Please list the ages of all individuals who are under the age of 18.

REGISTRATON:

1. Last Name, First Name
2. Address/City/State
3. Phone Number
4. Email Address

SFMS affiliated club: (only SFMS clubs which have current liability insurance [SFMS/EFMLS/Private] are allowed to attend.) (Please answer ALL of the above items or your registration will be returned!)

Reply to this email with your completed registration information or send your registration back to sfms@amfed.org

Glendon Quarry code of conduct!

- Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.
- NO child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed in the quarry because of all the dangers involved. **CHILDREN 12 and older WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THIS EVENT IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION!**
- ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- ALL Standard Minerals employees have final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- HAND TOOLS ONLY!
- STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS and do not cross any taped boundary markers!!

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OUT OF THE QUARRY BY 3pm sharp.

SFMS Field Trip Committee: Internet website: <http://amfed.org/sfms>

E-Mail jimflora@windstream.net

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting
February 3, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. Board members present were: Pat Davis, Bill Schmidt, Dave Watson, Donna Remsnyder, George Comas, and Julia Larson. Also present were: Donna Sapp (membership chair) and Bucky Joseph.

The January minutes were accepted for publication. The treasurer was absent and her report will be presented to the board at the next board meeting.

Recruitment of new members by demonstrators during the show was discussed.

Membership: Changes to the application form were requested, including permission to distribute phone numbers and email addresses to club members; and an explanation of family membership. The changes will be sent to the newsletter editor so she can amend the form.

Show: Bill discussed printing of additional information for the show. The "Who We Are" brochure needs updating; Julia will do this and send it to Debbie so it can be amended. Bill will take care of printing these for the show, as well as the new member information sheet. Julia will order a banner for the demonstrations. Bill discussed the changes to the newspaper ads, which will feature a link to a web site Bill has set up: sgamsgem-show@gmail.com. He has also activated an old cell phone for 90 days so he can take calls for information. The board approved Julia's request to add a line to the flyer for Scouts in uniform to get in free. Donna S. asked about the tbt* free paper; Bill will check into getting show information there.

Building: The electric bill seemed rather high. The building committee will check into getting a more efficient heating/cooling unit for the cabbing room.

Education: Donna R. may have a new silver instructor for the club. She mentioned doing segmented classes lasting only a few weeks each. Since she has not used her budgeted funds yet, she is working on setting up kits for silver students. New items are being installed in the cabbing room. The new cabbing machine still needs to be set up there. Julia mentioned an eBay site that has very inexpensive Hot Head torches, and asked if we could order four. This will be discussed a later date.

New business: Julia mentioned a petition to ask the post office to do a series of stamps featuring birthstone gems. The petition will be downloaded and a supply placed on the information table at the show. Julia will make a poster for this. The need for a demonstrators' meeting was discussed. Pat will schedule this.

Open discussion: Dealer ribbons vs name tags was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

**Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
General Meeting
February 17, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. There were 24 members present and one visitor/new member.

The treasurer's report was given and accepted for audit.

Pat reported that the termite inspection was done and there were no termites.

The nominating committee (Donna Mallory) is seeking people to run for office for 2011-12. Please contact her, if you are interested in helping YOUR club by serving on the board.

Leona Sheffield described several upcoming field trips. The Pinellas Geological Society will partner with the Tampa Bay Fossil Club to go to Ruck's Pit on February 26. On March 26, there will be a visit to the Mulberry Museum that includes a bucket dig for fossils. This is free, but the museum asks for donations. On April 30, an escorted car trip at the Peace River is scheduled; and in May there will be a trip to Honeymoon Island.

Building: The heat in the cabbing seems to be OK; under cabinet lights have been installed in the kitchen for the glass classes.

Show: Volunteers are needed at the clubhouse on Saturday, February 26, to sort through rocks to be taken to sell at the show. Set-up will be Thursday, March 3. Volunteers will meet at 10 a.m. at the clubhouse to load the trucks; the Minn-Reg building will be open from 2 to 9 p.m. Cases will be set up during this time. Volunteers are also needed to break down the cases and assist with transporting things back to the clubhouse Sunday after the show. The March board meeting will be held Monday, February 28, instead of the usual first Thursday. Anyone is welcome to attend board meetings.

Pat announced that Lou Codol has agreed to open the cabbing room on the first and 4th Saturdays of the month, from 9 until noon. She may have someone else who will open on the other Saturdays. Details will be announced in the Rock-A-Gram.

Following the business part of the meeting, Sue Hazelden gave an extremely informative program on Herkimer Diamonds, including home movies and beautiful examples of this superb form of quartz.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Following the meeting, the board met to accept the following new members: **Judy Ater, Jim Croots, Kimberly and Robert Keane**; and Brian Mantey.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

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

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS: \$25.00/year for full space - \$12.50/year for half space

Clubhouse Class Schedules

Faceting: Mondays 6-9 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon

Cabbing: Mondays & Wednesdays 7-9 p.m.

Fused Glass: Tuesdays (First and Third only) 7-9 p.m.
Fifth Tuesday, if there should be one.

Loop-In-Loop Chain Making: Contact Barbara via email at watknots@gmail.com.



THERE WILL BE A SIGN UP SHEET AT THE GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL CLASSES.

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.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April at 7:00 p.m., at J.W. Cate Recreation Center, 5801 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg. 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