

ROCK-A-GRAM



March 2024

Volume 88

Springtime!

Spring has sprung!

Here in Florida, we enjoy a rather temperate climate. Outside of a brief span of cold weather, our flowers seem to bloom all year long, and we are used to being surrounded by the vibrant greens of plant life.

But in this lovely time period between the end of the cold and the beginning of the dog days of summer, we have some wonderful weather to head outside and enjoy.

From walking down one of our nearby beaches to exploring some local parks and nature trails, it's a perfect time to go be in nature. This also lends itself to the rockhound's enjoyment, so while you are out exploring, keep one eye on the ground.

Who knows, you may find a new springtime specimen for your collection.

Submissions to Newsletter

If possible, please send all submissions for the newsletter by the Friday before the general meeting.

This will allow for the creation and publication of the newsletter by that Sunday evening, which is our deadline.

Thank you!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear SGAMS members,

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every one of you who contributed to the resounding success of our recent show. Your dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm were truly evident throughout.

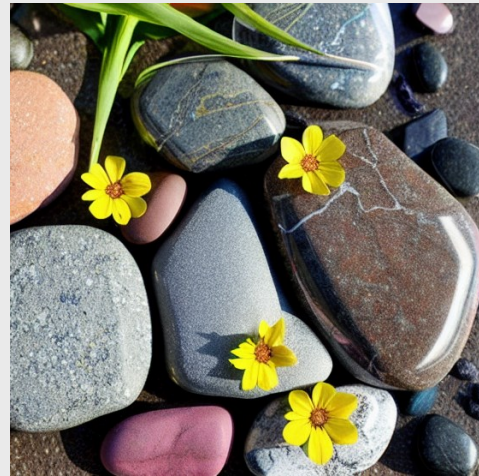
The dealers were very pleased with the turnout this year and I expect most will be coming back next year. The advertising we did made a difference. Our club table looked "better than it ever has," according to one dealer. We sold so much that some of the bins were looking a little sparse by Sunday afternoon. What a problem to have, right?

Gem mining was extra productive this year. The bags of "ore" were loaded. ALL the grab bags were sold. But they're like Doritos. We can make more. Ticket sales were hectic at moments but our members rose to the occasion. And, as always the silent auction was a lot of fun.

I am grateful to all of you whose tireless efforts brought this show together. Your commitment to SGAMS is inspiring.

Thank you,

Pat Davis, President



MEETING

Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 21st

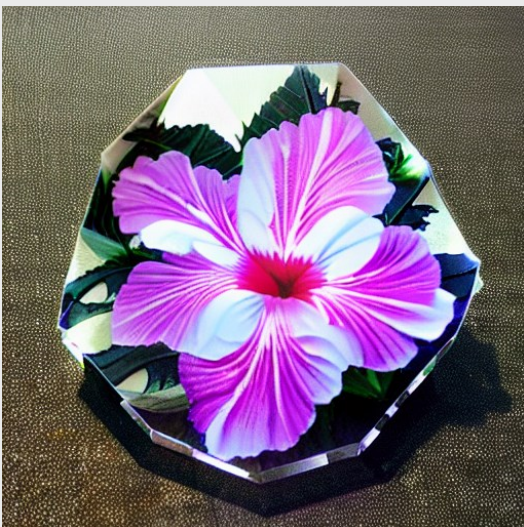
The March general meeting will feature a presentation by Gene McDevitt.

He is a miner, cutter and wholesaler of koroit opals and other curious stones.

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.

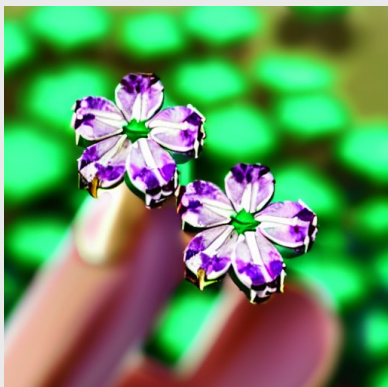
The public is cordially invited to attend these membership meetings.

December and May meetings are special, and as such, the time and place of meeting will be announced ahead of time in a bulletin.



RANDOM ROCK FACTS!

- **Rubies** were used to make some of the red stained glass in medieval European cathedrals and churches. The Sunrise Ruby, at 25.59 carats, is currently the most valuable ruby per carat ever sold at auction, fetching over \$30 million in 2015.
- **Emeralds** were so prized by ancient rulers that the Spanish conquistadors were executed for smuggling emeralds out of Colombia in the 1500s. Some of the finest and largest emerald crystals ever unearthed were found in the Muzo mines of Colombia, including the 7,000+ carat Gachala Emerald.
- **Opals** were given as prizes to the winners of the revived 1896 Olympic games (the first Olympic games winners were crowned with olive leaf wreaths). Around 95% of the world's precious opal supply comes from the dry outback regions of Australia.



- **Jeremejevite** is an extremely rare bright blue aluminum borate mineral, only found in tiny quantities in Siberia and Myanmar. A superb specimen from Yakutia, Russia is on display at the Smithsonian Museum.
- **Taaffeite** has a hardness of 8 to 8.5, making it one of the hardest gemstone materials after diamond, but gem quality specimens are virtually impossible to obtain. In 1962, a 6.5 carat taaffeite was sold for over \$1 million, making it one of the most valuable gemstones by weight.
- **Torbernite** is a bright green to emerald-green uranium copper phosphate mineral with a distinctive conical pyramid crystal habit. While striking to look it, torbernite is mildly radioactive, limiting its ornamental and collector uses compared to other copper minerals.



SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

Reports of Officers

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

Treasurer — A motion by Sue Hazelden to approve the Treasury Report, was approved.

2024 Club Auction

At this general meeting, Shamus Walker and Sue Hazelden worked our SGAM's 2024 club auction. This is a key fund raiser for our club where members bid on donated items. Plenty of rock specimens, lapidary and gem related items to choose from. This is to get us warmed up for the rock club's 2024 Annual Show coming up in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by:
Susan Clark, Recording Secretary





SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

MARCH BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 7th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President, Pat Davis. Board members present were: Kelly, Shamus, Sue, Karen, Tom. Members present: Brenda S

Reports of Officers

Secretary: Motion by Kelly, to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter was passed.
Treasurer: Treasurer's report was accepted and filed for audit.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Activities: Not present

Dinners: Not present

Show:

There was input from all that attended. Brenda presented feedback from the dealers that they were happy with the outcome. A few dealers suggested we close the show at 4 pm on Sunday. Suggested hours 9-5 on Friday and Saturday. Sunday 10-4pm. This would start the show an hour earlier on Friday and Saturday and close the show at 4pm. The general consensus was to make this change next year, though more discussion will take place before final decision is made.

It was also suggested that we add to our show contract that the dealers must vacate the building by a time to be determined in the future and also a STRONG suggestion that dealers DO NOT start packing up prior to 4 pm, the purpose of closing at 4 on Sunday is to allow dealers more time to pack up therefore not need to start packing up early.

Building:

We need to finish fence and paint and repair soffits & doors. Approx budget for full year of \$3,000.

Equipment:

Joe is requesting a steam cleaner and Larry a vac for his set up.

Finance:

We do not have a final total from the show as treasurer was absent and we are still awaiting one dealer payment.

Historical:

Not present

Membership:

Not present

Program:

Suggested Gene Mc Devitt an opal cabber

Old Business

See notes on building above

The meeting was adjourned
at 8:30 pm.

New Business

None

Submitted by:
Brenda Smith for Susan
Clark, Recording Secretary

Pictures from our show!



Tickets, please!

We had a lot of rock-lovers stop in and attend our show. The ticket table was never quiet for very long!

Building Fund Booth

We sold quite a lot of specimens, which helps continue funding our club throughout the year!

Club Information Table

We had a lot of interested people stop by and ask questions about our club, and either signed up or took a brochure to share with their friends and family!

(Below)



Our Dazzling Displays at the Show!



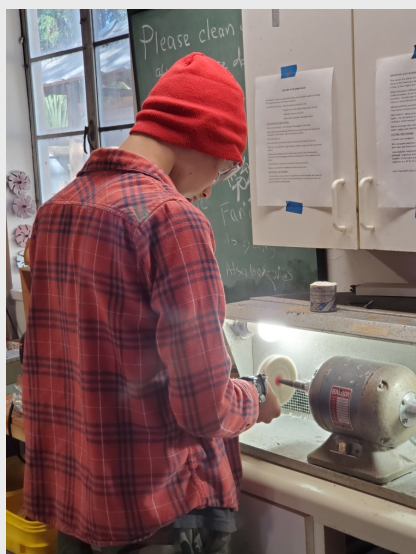
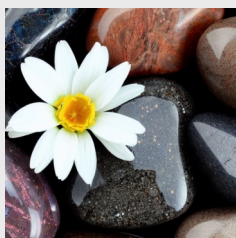
More pictures from our show!



More pictures from our show!



Taking lessons at the clubhouse!



Creating a new generation of Pebble Pups!



On Feb. 22nd, Kelly Nolen, Joann Knoss, and Karen Kulas set up a display at the Bauder Elementary School Science Night.

We had a display of various household items that are made from rocks or minerals.

We handed out a word search, show postcards, and tumbled rocks. We also had a fossilized whale vertebrae and rib bone and shark teeth courtesy of Debra Hamilton.

It was delightful to interact with the children and their parents. Many children were amazed to discover all the items made from or with minerals. They were especially amazed to discover that makeup and toothpaste contain minerals.

Class Schedules & Info

Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

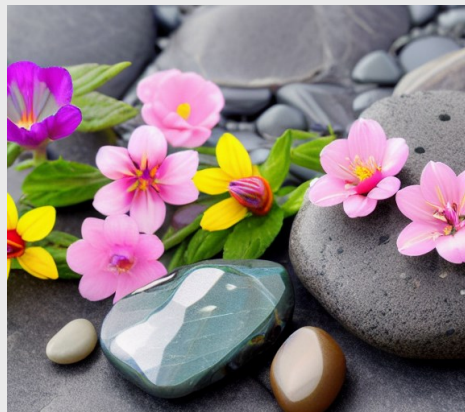
CABBING, Workshop & Instruction: Thursdays 12 to 4pm

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 727-608-3661 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.

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

For more information, visit: Ftc.gov/giftcards





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/Significant Other

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Occupation(s): Self: _____ Spouse/Significant Other: _____

Type of Membership: _____ Adult Single (\$20) _____ Family (\$30)
 Family means spouse/significant other and/or at least one child under 18 living in your home.

WILL YOU DONATE TIME AND TALENT TO THE CLUB? Yes No

Reason for Joining	Equipment Owned	Hobby Assets
___ Share Mutual Interest	___ Saw	___ Will show gem and mineral collection to club?
___ Education	___ Flat Lap/Cab machine	___ Hobby slides, CD, VHS
___ Field Trips	___ Grinder	___ Other _____
___ Club House	___ Faceting Machine	
___ Club Administration	___ Other _____	

What other rock/mineral clubs are you (or have you been) a member? _____

What position(s) have you held in other clubs? _____

Service to the club: *It is understood by joining this club (I/we) are willing to serve.* The following committees have been checked where (I/we) have an interest and believe (I/we) can render assistance.

(Indicate all areas where you have an interest and can assist YOUR club)	
___ A. Serve as a Committee Chairman	___ K. Serve as club officer or board member
___ B. Serve on a Committee.	___ L. /Historian.
___ C. Assist VP with programs for monthly meetings.	___ M. Assist Newsletter Editor (as needed)
___ D. Work with Field Trip Chairman on club trips.	___ N. Assist with maintenance of clubhouse
___ E. Assist at annual show: Ticket Booth	___ O. Assist in contacting membership-phone/email
___ F. Assist at annual show: Information Booth	___ P. Working as a club Instructor (cabbing, silver, faceting, wire wrapping, etc.)
___ G. Assist at annual show: Club Booth	___ Q. Hospitality for monthly meetings (set up coffee and supplies)
___ H. Assist at annual show: Silent Auction	___ R. Assist with social media-Facebook, etc
___ I. Assist at annual show: Gem Mining	
___ J. Assist with advertising and promotion of show	

Please list any other skills, knowledge, experience you have that could be helpful to the club. (Ex: accounting, electrical, legal, web design, computer skills, marketing, etc.)

References: Preferably local person who is in the hobby.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society
 Mail application to: Sandra Whittington, 6401 99th way N, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

Amt Dues Paid: _____ Check No. _____ Date: _____

 Membership Chairman Treasurer Date Accepted to Club

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 of asterisks

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 @. The 'Valued @' column contains '\$' for the first seven rows.

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/