



President's Message      May, 2023

I want to say a big "Thank You" to Karen Kulas who really stepped up in the last few months after being thrust into the president's job rather unexpectedly. Karen has met the challenge with ease and grace and accomplished so much in a few short months. Our committees are reformed, they are formulating plans and goals for the coming year and more members are involved in making this club work. I look forward to working with Karen in the coming year.

Another big "Thank You" to the outgoing board of directors and members who worked tirelessly on club projects this past year. You know who you are and I truly appreciate all you've done.

And looking forward, "Congratulations," to our incoming board members and committee chairs. We have lots to do but with many hands we can make it happen.

And finally, a big "Welcome" to our newer members. We're glad you found our club.

Now I get to say the traditional end of the season things. Have a great summer! Be safe and find good rocks wherever your travels take you. See you in September.

Pat Davis

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### HANDLING DONATIONS:

Donors are encouraged to bring items to the clubhouse at Board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September-May), or to the Membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September-May).

Julia Larson has volunteered to be the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. During the summer hiatus, June 1-August 31, or at any time, donors can contact Julia at: [jmlsgams22@gmail.com](mailto:jmlsgams22@gmail.com), or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave name and number for her to return the call.

Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.  
BOARD MEETING  
April 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Present were Karen Kulas, Breta McGuire, Pat Church, Shamus Walker, Kelly Nolen, Pat Davis and Julia Larson.

Upcoming elections for the 2023-24 board were discussed at length. There were volunteers for two of the positions and it was decided to hold a vote for these at the general meeting. Paper ballots will be distributed and counted during the meeting. Candidates for all positions will be announced and a voice vote will be called. Karen indicated she would ask nominees to share something about themselves (how long they have been a member, what they have worked on or contributed to, current/former profession, three things the club is doing well, three areas where improvement is needed).

Karen is currently handling the Rock-a-Gram newsletter but a new editor is needed. Treasurer: Amazon Smile is being discontinued and the company needs our bank information so they can pass on any funds collected on our behalf. Pat Church will handle this.

Hourly shop fee increase was discussed then tabled until the May board meeting. Karen has asked the instructors (Dave Watson, Joe Cooper and Larry Murray) to present a program on the shop and classes at the September meeting. There was discussion regarding the sharing of the club roster with the general membership, allowing anyone to opt out if they do not want their contact information shared. The general consensus was that the roster should not be disseminated beyond the board. If a member wants contact information for another member, a board member can be asked to provide it. Karen distributed the lists of committee volunteers which were distributed at the March general meeting. She asked each board member to take one or two committees and contact those who had volunteered, giving them the contact information of each committee volunteer and asking the volunteers to get together sometime between the April 20 general meeting and May 3, and provide a report to the board by the May 4 board meeting. There was considerable discussion on the exact wording of the emails to ensure consistency.

The meeting was adjourned at 850 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

**CORRECTION/ADDENDUM:** During the board meeting some changes were made to the slate of officers nominated for the coming year. The corrected names and positions *as of this meeting* were: Sue Hazelden, 1 year director; Don Schlough and Brenda Smith, 3 year directors; Corresponding Secretary, JoAnn Knoss and Kelly Nolen.

**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.  
GENERAL MEETING APRIL 20, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 705 pm. A new member, Leslie Martin, was introduced.

Minutes were accepted as published. The treasurer's report was filed for audit. JoAnn Knoss reported on the May dinner meeting to be held at the Pinellas Grill Thursday May 18 at **7 pm** (this is a slightly later start time than previously announced).

Nominations for officers and board members for the upcoming year were held. Changes to previously announced nominations were discussed. Subsequent to the April board meeting, Julia Larson had requested to be replaced as recording secretary; Karen announced that Susan Clark had volunteered for the position. Two members had volunteered for the positions of corresponding secretary (Kelly Nolen and JoAnn Knoss) and 3 year director (Don Schlough and Brenda Smith) so members were asked to complete a paper ballot to determine the nominees. The vote for 3-year director ended in a tie. Brenda Smith withdrew her name.

The nominees for 2023-24 are:

President	Pat Davis
Vice-President	Karen Kulas
Corresponding Secretary	Kelly Nolen
Recording Secretary	Susan Clark
Treasurer	Barbara Kirchheimer
1 year Director	Sue Hazelden
1 year Director	Shamus Walker
2 year Director	Debbie Hamilton
3 year Director	Don Schlough

There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made to accept the nominees as stated. It was seconded and the slate was unanimously approved by the membership. Installation of the new officers will occur at the May dinner meeting. Karen announced the new editor of the Rock-a-Gram will be new member Kat McBeth.

Following the raffle, Pat Davis reported on the March show and asked for ideas for the 2024 show. She compiled the ideas and will send an email report to the board and to the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 830 pm, following which the various committee members who were present broke into groups to discuss their respective activities.  
Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Hello SGAMS Members,

We have organized committees to help with certain tasks in our organization. I am helping with the Historical Committee.

We want to preserve the memories and history of SGAMS for our future Rock-hounds and Pebble Pups. We would like you to submit your photos and stories to help us do this. We are making both hard copy and digital scrapbooks.

This is a work in progress so please submit your photos to me or to the other members of the Historical Committee. We want to thank you in advance for your help to make an awesome archival record of SGAMS.

Thank you,

Kelly Nolen and the SGAMS Historical Committee

Kelly Nolen [oescharmer@aol.com](mailto:oescharmer@aol.com)

<b><u>Welcome New Members</u></b>	
Sandra Donelan	

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 @. Contains 10 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

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

**Mail application to:** Patricia Church, 2404 15<sup>th</sup> St. W., Palmetto, FL 34221

**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.

FOLLOW THESE LINKS TO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:

**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** web site is at: <http://www.amfed.org>

**American Lands Access Association:** [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)

**Southeast Federation of Mineralogical**

**Soc**[www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org)

National Park Foundation: [www.nationalparks.org/](http://www.nationalparks.org/)  
explore-parks

**Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society:** [www.canaveral-mgs.com](http://www.canaveral-mgs.com)

**Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society:** [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org)

**Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society:** [www.bonevalley.net](http://www.bonevalley.net)

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: [www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: <http://www.tampabayrockclub.org/>

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County:** [www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com)

An amazing resource is the website: <https://geology.com> — a wealth of information on geology, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, etc. ; maps, and geology products for sale.

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**Our Web Site:** <http://www.sgams.com>

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#### SGAMS OFFERINGS FOR MEMBERS —

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.

In cabbing, participants will learn the basics of cutting, forming, and polishing a simple cabochon. 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 class is to help with foundational silversmithing skills and finishing suitable for the novice or those with limited experience.

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 wish help in this last stage.

## Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

**CABBING: Thursdays 12 to 4pm** Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

### **WORKSHOP & INSTRUCTION**

Must receive TEXT request by Tuesday Evening

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

**FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm**

Dave Watson 727-541-2917 or sgams2020@gmail.com

**SILVER SMITHING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm**

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

**WAX CASTING: By Reservation, announced by Email Blast to All Members**

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

## ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. , 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. 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: \$20.00 single or \$30.00 couple/family; due annually each Sep

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