

ROCK-A-GRAM



November, 2013



Volume 45, No. 3, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Location:

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



40 Years of Florida History

Presented by: *Brian Evensen*

Brian's program will be about the last 40 years of Florida history as seen thru his eyes. One of the things he is hoping to show you is "flint napping". This is how the Indians used to make their spear heads. He use to own "Lost in Time" store at the St. Petersburg Pier until it closed. He has lots of memories, memorabilia, artifacts. He is in the process of converting his garage into a museum of artifacts and other interesting things. Brian is a long time member of the club, so we hope everyone will come out to meet him and hear his interesting stories. See everyone Thursday night at the clubhouse.



DUES ARE DUE. Please give them to the membership chairperson, or *Jerri Heer*, Treasurer at our General Meeting. If dues are not paid, you will be taken off membership roster and no longer receive newsletter.

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

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

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

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Email: jheerx6@aol.com

Gerri Grovers, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322
Email: gerrigroves@yahoo.com

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Email: prozac282@tampabay.rr.com

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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

It's hard to believe the year is coming to a close. November is probably my favorite month of the year here in Florida, though the clear skies, lower humidity and cooler temperatures I look forward to, but haven't exactly been in abundance thus far. However, there is something else I am anticipating in the November skies this year: The appearance of Comet ISON, a recently discovered comet that astronomers say will be visible with the naked eye later this month. According to *Discover* and *Astronomy* magazines, we can see the celestial newcomer – if you are in a dark location and have a decent pair of binoculars - just before sunrise in the eastern sky.

Now if I can just find a dark location around here.....

We are still gathering containers for our anticipated very large donation. Plastic buckets of any kind or milk crates, etc., can be dropped off at the clubhouse. Once they are filled with rocks, they will be quite heavy. We will need all hands on deck to help move the rocks, when we get the word from the folks in Clearwater. Stay tuned for more information concerning the donation date. We will be sending an email to all members regarding the date, place, and time to meet.

I hope you will take a few moments this month to think about what you are thankful for in your life. Sometimes when it seems like there's not much to be grateful for, I am reminded of a little poem I read years ago: "No matter how much you may scream and curse, remember this: It could always be worse."

Happy Thanksgiving.

Julia Larson, President



Smithsonian - Incredible 360 Degree Tour

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

November 10, 2013

Here is something special, a virtual tour of the Smithsonian Museum room by room. It is really something with a 360 degree viewing by using your cursor. You easily spend days/weeks looking at everything. Just marvelous for kids and adults. Follow the blue arrows on the floor to move into new rooms.

Shows inside and outside of the museum and there little cameras here and there which show detailed info on certain things. If you click on the floors (upper right corner) you get a floor plan of that floor and you can click on a blue circle and go directly to that room.

Truly incredible web site. Watch it in full screen when you open this up. Use the roller on your mouse to move in and out. Look for the "arrows" on the floor and click on them. They take you to other places.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/vtp/1-desktop/>. Fossils on first floor/Gems and Minerals on second floor.

Monthly "Bench Tips"

By: Brad Smith

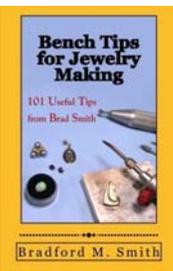
Canaveral Moonstone, November 2013/Tips and Trips, November 2013

MARKING YOUR TOOLS:

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch. But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle. I formed my initials from a couple 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.



BENCH TIPS HOLIDAY SPECIAL: If you find these monthly tips useful, then think how nice it'd be to have the full bench tips reference guide for your shop or as a present for a jewelry friend. Between now and Thanksgiving I'm offering a Holiday Special that includes a free bonus pack of jewelry articles with every copy purchased. "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" contains 101 of the most popular and useful bench tips organized into ten main problem areas. It's filled with close-up photos and has a detailed index to help find the solution you need by key word.



Get your copy by going directly to my printer at <http://CreateSpace.com/3976439>. Upon ordering the book, you will receive a confirmation email. This is your proof of purchase. Forward a copy of this to me at benchtips@yahoo.com to receive your free bonus pack.

The articles include: 1. Cuttlebone Casting - Get wonderful textures quickly and easily 2. Bezel Basics - Hints for making a perfect bezel every time 3. Make Your Own Wax Pen - You'll love this \$20 electric wax tool 4. Depletion Gilding - An easy way to avoid tarnish on your pieces 5. Setting Up A Home Shop - Tool tips and safety considerations 6. Building a Jewelry Web Site - Develop a plan to save money.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or [facebook.com/BenchTips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Upcoming Shows

www.rockandgem.com, Canaveral Moonstone, September 2013

November 23-24: West Palm Beach, FL

Gem & Mineral Society of the Pam Beaches
Sat; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., South
Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East, Free parking.
9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33411
Website: www.gemandmineral.com

January 10, 11, 12: Largo

Annual Show, Pinellas Geological Society; Largo
Cultural Center; Parkside Room, 105 Central Park
Drive, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday
12-5 p.m., free admission, donations accepted.

February 8-10: Cocoa, FL

Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club
Kiwanis Island Park
Contact: Erleen Estes, (321) 514-8775
Feb 22, Lakeland, FL

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Society

175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.
Lakeland, FL 33801
Contact: Kim Price (863)-412-9156
Email: IBVGMFS@gmail.com



Other Web Sites:

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

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical
Societies Website at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms> Check
this site out for Wildacres & William
Holland information

The URL for CMGS web site is:
<http://www.canaveral-mgs.com/>

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
June, 2013
www.AMFED.org

2013-14 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

California Federation

May 30 - June 1, 2014
Pomona, CA

Eastern Federation

March 29-30, 2014
Plymouth Mtg, PA

Midwest Federation

October 18-19, 2014
Des Moines, IA

Northwest Federation

August 15-17, 2014
Hermiston, OR

Rocky Mountain Federation

July 9-13, 2014
Tulsa, OK

South Central Federation

August 9-10, 2014
Baton Rouge, LA

Southeast Federation

TBA

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

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

<http://www.jewelrystowguide.com/event/>

WE ARE A LOCAL NON-PROFIT CLUB
The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
www.sgams.com

44th Annual
**Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry
Show and Sale**
March 7, 8, 9, 2014
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Minnreg Building
6340 126th Avenue North
Largo, FL

Continuous Working Demonstrations:

- ◆ Bead Stringing
- ◆ Wirecraft
- ◆ Cabochon Cutting
- ◆ Gem Cutting
- ◆ and more

DIAMONDS EMERALDS RUBIES
 14K GOLD JEWELRY EXHIBITS BEADS
 DOOR PRIZES AND MUCH MORE....

FREE PARKING **ADMISSION** **FREE PARKING**
 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 adult admission with this ad. Limit one per person.

Show News for November

Welcome, and to start off; another month has gone by so we are a month closer to that special date in March of Friday the 7th.

The fliers are being re-updated. They will be available at the clubhouse and at the December meeting. So please begin to remember where you put up fliers last year and think where they might additionally go this time. But ask permission first before you post!

Now for the volunteer positions. Let me run through each of them: #1 is the ticket booth. Here we do the obvious taking and changing of money, issuing tickets and figuring discount amounts. Since these members are the first ones our visitors meet we need outgoing, fast people to keep the entry free flowing. Also the two drawings are explained, directions and instructions given. #2 is the information booth. This is where we get our most one to one contact. Visitors can get SGAMS information, applications, buy grab bags, magazines, answer questions, give directions and basically anything to help anyone out. Looking for personable, outgoing and knowledgeable members here. #3 is the Club Tables. Here you sell our rocks and extra equipment, answer question and identify peoples rocks. Need real rock people here to properly price and identify. #4 is the Silent Auction. This is new and we need members to watch over, explain, and keep the tables organized. #5 is the new Gem Mining area. Also new we're looking for complete oversight of directing the kids (adults?) on what to do, refilling the stock, collecting money, and tending the sluice were looking at building. #6 is Hospitality where we need to keep an eye on the small set of supplies we tend to and to clean up at the end of the day and reset for the next morning. Once we get all these mandatory slots filled we can start filling the slots for demonstrators.

We ask that you show up 15 minutes early to help with a smooth transition and the shift start times show this overlap period. The sheets are left at the clubhouse for you to see what space is available any time the doors are open. You can find them on a large clipboard, with a pen, on the round "sign-in table" by the front door.

If you have any questions please get in touch me. Thanks.

Bill Schmidt

Faceting Equipment For Sale

\$1,500 OBO for Everything

If you are just starting your faceting work, this is a great opportunity. Graves Mark I faceting machine, trim saw with motor, Gryphon lapidary workshop, Australian Opals, Jars of Mexican Fire Opal, Fire Agate, white opals, small drawers with various faceting materials, extra grinding wheels, gem books, and much more.

Call: Max, 813-909-1411
Lutz, FL



Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting
October 3, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Dave Schwebel, Dave Watson, Jerri Heer, Donna Sapp, Bill Schmidt, and Gerri Groves.

The following reports were discussed and approved.

Motion by Dave Watson, to accept the secretary's report as published.

Treasurer's report Jerri Heer will transfer funds from the checking account to the savings account.

Equipment, Dave Schwebel has a list of items that are needed to upgrade the equipment, he will bring this to the November meeting.

Shop classes will stay the same except for Jerri Heer's class the first and third Wednesday she will only be there from 12-4 p.m. The second and fourth Wednesday she will do 12-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.

Program for October Donna Sapp is working on this and is hoping to get Jay Brown to give more details about the trip he took over the summer to Central America.

We discussed the changes that the Show Committee has put together. Bill will have the sign-up sheets for the regular meeting on October 17, 2013.

New business: Soda fund, discussion on where to put the money.

There is a show meeting set for October 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerri Groves

Recording secretary

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



Clubhouse Class Schedules

(As of September 5, 2013)

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

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

Wednesdays, (1st and 3rd 12-4 p.m., 2nd and 4th 12-4 and 6 - 9 p.m.)

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

ENAMELING: Wednesdays, 12 - 4 p.m.

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

Sandy Schwebel dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: 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

OPEN STUDIO: First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Don Roberts flmetalman@yahoo.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

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:

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesdays (see schedule)

Faceting/Wirewrapping Classes:

Mondays, 6-9 p.m.

Open Studio:

First Tuesday/month

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.