

ROCK-A-GRAM



October, 2013



Volume 45, No. 2, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Location:

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

Mayan Archeaology

Presented by: Jay Brown



Jay and his wife Carolyn spent some time during the summer visiting Guatemala and Honduras and the Mayan Ruins. He told us a little bit about it at the September meeting, but he has much more to add. This promises to be a very interesting program.

Hope to see everyone there.

DUES ARE DUE once again. Please give them to the membership chairperson, or *Jerri Heer*, Treasurer at our General Meeting.

DUES ARE DUE!

\$15.00 Individuals—\$20 per family

If your last name starts with N-Z, 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

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

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

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

Pat Davis, 2 Year Director 727-323-2147
Email: wayouttamygourd@yahoo.com

Rose LaBranche, 1 yr. Director.. ... 727-742-3053
Email: rlabranche@tampabay.rr.com

Dave Watson, 3 yr. Director. 727-541-2917
Email: bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

Holly Dodson, 1 yr. Director 813-928-0372
Email: prozac282@tampabay.rr.com

Debbie Bremer, Editor 727-298-0061
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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

I just returned from a week at William Holland. Club (and board!) members Pat Davis, Holly Dodson and Rose LaBranche were there as well, so SGAMS was well represented. I taught an advanced stained glass class; Pat took an enameling class; and Holly and Rose each took a different wire class. The weather was a pleasant change from the heat and humidity of Florida, though jackets weren't necessary and the leaves were just beginning to turn. We also attended the River Fest in Canton, GA and the Marble Festival in Jasper, GA, spending way too much money but having a great time. October is the start of a lot of fall festivals in that area, so if you are traveling up there, plan to stop in a few of them.

Did you know that many of the older buildings in Washington, DC are made from marble quarried in the Jasper-Tate, GA area? And did you know that food-grade marble dust is a component in everything from medicines to chewing gum? Stick that in your memory bank for future trivia contests! Our show committee is already hard at work, taking care of some of the background things we usually leave until after the holidays. Your input is always needed and appreciated. Those of you who did not attend last month's meeting missed out on free pizza!

One of the major changes we are instituting for the 2014 show is in regard to demonstrators and booth coverage. *Until ALL time slots are filled for all areas (tickets, information, club, etc.), no demonstrator slots will be assigned.* Beginning with this meeting, sign-up sheets will be available at every meeting. If you want free admission to the show, you must sign up to work. No "floaters" will be allowed free admission. Stay tuned for other changes.

Happy Fall, Y'all, *Julia Larson*, President

Show News

It is time again to begin preparation for Our show. Already we have contacted last year's vendors and about half have sent in a deposit. One show committee meeting has gone by and the next is scheduled for Thursday the 24th at 7:00 p.m.

We're adding two new facets to the show and changing some things around. This year we will have a silent auction. The plan is to put it in the Griffin Room (that would be the break room), move the display cases, and a smaller amount of Demonstrators in there too. We can then fit more dealers in the cleared out areas on the main floor. Next, to start attracting more kids to the show we will add a gem mining area. Were looking to the patio area outside behind the stairs for setup.

To make everything work volunteers are needed in all the areas. We need solid coverage and dependable attendance. Don't worry if you have never worked a show most jobs are simple, fun, and you have a chance to learn a lot of things. The areas to be covered are Set-up, Break-down, Information Table, Ticket Booth, Club Table, Hospitality, Silent Auction and Gem Mining. So we have a place for everyone and every talent. The sign up sheets will be at the General Meeting and in coming articles I will explain each area in more detail. These jobs and time slots all need to be filled for a successful show. The more we can spread the work around the easier the show will be for us. Oh, by the way the show is on March 7th, 8th, & 9th with set up on Thursday the 6th.

Thanks,
Bill Schmidt

Monthly "Bench Tips"

By Brad Smith

The Tips and Trips, October, 2013

Just Say No to Optvisors

During his annual vision-check, a jeweler friend of mine wondered why not have his reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Opt visors? So he asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +200 diopters into bifocals. The doctor checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that it was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far he holds a jewelry piece from his eye, to get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty, bulky optvisors! Anyone else tried this?

Mandrels

Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire. Frequency we choose a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops. But together the right "look" in chain maile designs, you must have just the right size mandrel, and often they are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is from Harbor Freight. They have a set of 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, for under ten bucks. It's called a Transfer Punch Set. The catalog number is #3577, and the price is \$9.95, plus, look for the 20% off coupon on any one item in their advertising circular. That cuts your cost to around eight bucks. I've bought four of these over the last couple years. [Www.harborfreight.com](http://www.harborfreight.com)

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or facebook.com/BenchTips/ or see the book "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

Upcoming Shows

www.rockandgem.com, Canaveral Moonstone, September 2013

October 19-20: Plant City, FL

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club; Strawberry Festival Expo Bldg.; 2301 W. Oak Ave.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Web site: www.tampabayrockclub.com

October 27-18: Stuart, FL

St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club; Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy. (A1A); Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; demonstrations, displays, silent auction, raffle, Web site: www.slrockandgem.org

November 9-10: Melbourne, FL

Parade of Gems Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society, Melbourne Auditorium; 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd. Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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.

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 TBA	Rocky Mountain Federation July 9-13 Tulsa, OK
Eastern Federation March 29-30 Plymouth Mtg, PA	South Central Federation TBA
Midwest Federation October 18-19, 2014 Des Moines, IA	Southeast Federation September 20-22 Jacksonville, FL
Northwest Federation August 15-17 Hermiston, OR	

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

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

<http://www.jewelrystockguide.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
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 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.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES 2013

Don Roberts

E-mail: flmetalman@yahoo.com

Webb: WWW.Wix.com/popp11/alpha-omega-creations

Cell: 727-385-8412

October 19: Cold Connections

10:00 to 4:00 A.M.

Hyde Park Arts Center

702 South Albany

Tampa

FOR SALE

- Specimens
- Faceted stones
- Mexican fire agate
- Slabs
- Rocks and more

Contact Ruth, 727-345-0383.

**CLASSIFY YOUR
COLLECTION DAY!**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 19TH
10AM-4:30PM**

Bring your fossils, minerals, and arrowheads to be identified by our panel of experts, including Barbara Fite, Mike Carew, Neil Beckingham, and author of *Sunrise at Bone Valley*, Frank Garcia.

Admission is free!

- MUSIC
- FOOD TRUCK
- GAMES
- AND FACE PAINTING

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY
EXPLORE · LEARN · PROTECT

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101 S.E. 1ST STREET
MULBERRY, FL 33860
(863) 425-2823
WWW.MULBERRYPHOSPHATEMUSEUM.ORG

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Board Meeting

April 6, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were: *Julia Larson, Dave Schwebel, and Dave Watson*. Also present was *Sandy Schwebel*. With only three of nine board members present, there was no quorum and no official business could be conducted.

The end of year dinner was discussed and several locations were contacted. An executive decision was made to hold the dinner at the Olive Garden Restaurant on US 19.

Other items discussed included the need for a form letter to be used for donations to the club; a replacement shop manager for Monday nights; *Dave Schwebel* stated he would be available on Tuesday nights.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Julia Larson

President

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board Meeting
September 5, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were: *Julia Larson, Dave Watson, Rose LaBranche, Pat Davis, Gerri Groves, Holly Dobson, Bill Schmidt, and Debbie Bremer.*

Also at the meeting were *Darell Groves, and Don Roberts.*

The following reports were discussed and approved.

Secretary's report for April, and May. Motion by Pat Davis to accept, as published. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report for May, June, and July.

Discussion on suggestion that Jerri made, moving some money from the checking account to the savings account. Rose is going to check the fees and rates that Grow Financial charges at this time and will report back at the October board meeting.

Pat has taken over the Dealer Chair position for the Annual Show from Jerri.

Shop Classes for the new year are as follows:

Monday-Wire wrapping/Faceting: Dave Watson, 6-9 p.m.

Tuesday Cabbing: Dave Schwebel, 6:30-9 p.m.

1st Tuesday of the month Metal working: Don Roberts, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday afternoon Enameling: Pat Davis, noon to 4 p.m.

Program for the Sept meeting is Show & Tell, "What I Did This Summer."

Show Business. Pat has deposit money from 12 dealers for the 2014 show.

We have set up a Show Committee meeting for Sept 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. We want to get started on the show as soon as possible and not wait until the last minute. Need to have the sign up sheets for the show out by January, so everyone can sign up to work the show.

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, 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 wayouttamygourd@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 flmetelman@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 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:

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 - 9 p.m.

Faceting/Wirewrapping Classes:

Mondays, 6-9 p.m.

Open Studio:

First Tuesday/month

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.