

# ROCK-A-GRAM



June-September, 2007



Volume 39, No. 1, Page 1

## General Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center

1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg

### PROGRAM

#### SHOW AND TELL...

**Tell us about your summer vacation.**

**Show us what you collected over the summer.**

**DUES ARE DUE!**

**\$15 Individuals - \$20 per family**

Do You Have an Email Address:

If you have an email address, please send to [eloster@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:eloster@tampabay.rr.com). Please put "Suncoast e-mail Update" in the subject line, I can then find it in my anti-spam mail easier. This will make it much easier to contact people and send out reminders of the meetings, ask for volunteers, etc.

*Evie Loster*

**If your last name starts with A-M, please bring goodies to our meeting.**

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

*David Cordes*, President ..... 727-443-4706  
email: whisgyp@knology.net  
1227-S Hillcrest Ave.  
Clearwater, FL 33756

*Bill Schmidt*, Vice President ..... 727-822-8279  
3939 Porpoise Drive SE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

*Sue Hazelden*, Treasurer ..... 727-321-5732  
Email: sujagems1@aol.com  
4823 14th Ave. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

*Julia Larson*, Recording Sec. .. 727-522-1254  
Email: juliamlarson@earthlink.net  
5297 Huntington St. NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

*Walt Upman*, Corr. Sec. .... 727-323-3935  
3698 18th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

*Homer Rankhorn*, 3 yr. Director 727-812-4002  
15666 49th Street North #1119  
Clearwater, FL 33762

*Evie Loster*, 2 yr. Director ..... 727-821-7230  
2150 23rd Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

*Terry Bogard*, 1yr. Director ..... 727-523-8046  
email: Grandpaboggie@yahoo.com  
15666-49th Street N. #1132  
Clearwater, FL 33762

*Sue Black*, Past President ..... 727-345-8994  
8136 22nd Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

*Debra Bremer*, Editor ..... 727-298-0061  
**ROCK-A-GRAM**

**SGAMS Clubhouse Address: 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, Phone: (727) 541-1291, www.sgams.com**

**Clubhouse Activities:** Listed on mailer coversheet and announced at membership meetings.  
**SGAMS Board of Director's Meetings:** 7:30 p.m., 1st Tuesday 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.

### Notice:

No board meeting minutes are in this issue. Neither the regular board meeting on Sept. 3 nor the rescheduled meeting on Sept. 6 produced a quorum.

### GARAGE SALES ETC.

It is hoped that we will hold another garage sale, probably this October. We have some items left over that are at the clubhouse right now. But perhaps if you have anything you are getting rid of through the summer you could put it by for our next sale. It isn't that far away.

Also we will still be saving the aluminum cans. If you cannot keep them you could drop them off at my house after calling. I am at 4823-14th Ave., N. With help from a very generous neighbor we collected \$47.75 with the first batch. We are in need of new grinding wheels etc. for the capping room, & this would help in that direction.

*Sue Hazelden*

### Hints

#### **Brewer's Yeast for Mosquitoes:**

Take one 7.5-milligram tablet each day to repel mosquitoes. Usually works immediately.

--by Peter H. Gott, M.D.; from *The Sentinel-Record*, Hot Springs, Ark., April 24, 2007



### Special Birthdays

We would like to wish a couple of people a very happy birthday, **Tom McWilliams** celebrated his 90th birthday, and **Vivian Morris** celebrated her 75th birthday over the summer. A very happy birthday to you both...



### Postage Stamps Needed

Please remember to bring those stamps to the meeting. Stamps must be either off the paper or neatly trimmed with 1/4" border around the stamp. discard any stamps that are torn or defaced in any manner. To remove stamps, wet envelope with a little dish soap and warm water, stamp will fall off. Place stamp upside down on paper towel to dry. Thank you.

The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society  
a local non-profit club proudly presents:

39th Annual

## Gem & Mineral Show and Sale

March 7, 8, 9, 2008

Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### CONTINUOUS WORKING DEMONSTRATIONS

- Bead Stringing
- Wirecraft
- Channel Work
- Gem Cutting



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AND  
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### ADMISSION

Adults - \$5.00 good for all three days, children under 6 FREE  
Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00

### DIRECTIONS

- Minnreg Building  
6340 126th Avenue No.  
Largo
- From Tampa I-275 cross  
Howard Franklin Bridge.  
At exit 31B, take Ramp  
(right) onto SR-688  
(Ulmerton Rd) Merge  
onto SR-686. Bear LEFT  
(West) onto SR-688  
(Ulmerton Rd) turn  
LEFT (South-East)  
onto US-19 N. Turn  
RIGHT (West) onto  
126th Ave N.
- From North on US 19  
take 66th Street exit go to  
126th Ave., turn left.

## FEDERATION NEWS

Tips and Trips, Georgia Mineral Society, Feb. 2007

[www.AMFED.org](http://www.AMFED.org)

### 2007 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

#### Eastern Federation

October 6-7, 2007

Newark, NY

#### Southeast Federation

Gulf Coast of Mississippi

November 9-11, 2007

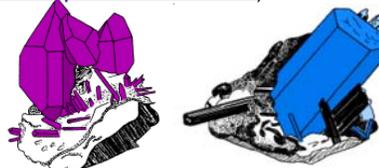
### Read a Good Mineral Book

Every mineral collector needs to have some good books about minerals. Here is a short list of some of the really good books for mineral collectors. They can be purchased new at any local bookstore. Better yet, look for them on eBay or an online bookstore ... you most likely can get a good copy at a discounted price.

A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals by Frederick H. Pough (The Peterson Field Guide Series). Published by the Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. It includes terrific photographs and information on the physical properties, crystal forms, and uses of minerals as well as places where the minerals are found.

A Guide to Field Identification: Minerals of the World by Charles A. Sorrell. Published by Golden Press, New York. This book contains all the important information about minerals. It is illustrated with beautiful drawings of minerals and crystals. It is easy to read and helpful for young mineral collectors.

Source: *Mini Miners Monthly*, Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2007  
[www.diamonddanpublications.com](http://www.diamonddanpublications.com)



Source: Hounds Howl, September, 2007



### Pyrite Sun

Pyrite Suns are found in coal mines near Sparta, Illinois, at the 300-foot level in a very narrow seam laying on top of the coal. Miners in four

mines bring them out in their lunch buckets, thus preserving what would otherwise be destroyed. Surrounded by black slate, a very difficult cleaning process unveils their hidden natural beauty. Dating in age to 350 million years old, one of the present theories of origin is a pyritized fossil replacement. Their natural beauty and shape makes them perfect for a variety of uses, such as clock faces and jewelry.

--From *Rusty's Rock Shop*, 4106 Buckingham, Decatur, IL 62526

### Shop Tips

A good all-around glue for gluing bails, pin backs, bell caps, etc. is Elmer's Stix-All®. It is non-toxic, non-flammable, flexible and strong, as well as impact resistant. While it sets up fast, complete curing takes 24 hours. It can be purchased at most gem shops, hardware and variety stores.

--original source unknown via *The pegmatite*, 12/2004

## Short Study of the Crystallization of Silicon Dioxide

by Ocus Stanley, Mt. Ida, Arkansas

Quartz is formed by the chemical union of the two most common elements, silicon and oxygen. The compound is created by this union in silicon dioxide, and its various free forms composes almost 12 percent of the earth's outer shell. Silicon dioxide (quartz) has a glasslike luster, it breaks with a conchoidal fracture, and has the hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale which is 3 points under that of a diamond. It will scratch the hardest glass but cannot bescratched by the best steel knife blade.

There are two main methods by which the crystallization of quartz may take place:

1. Solidification from a molten magma.
2. Precipitation of colloidal silica out of a solution.

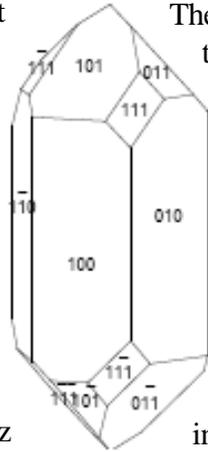
The second method is the most important and the most common. The nature of crystal deposits and their relation to other minerals which are destroyed at moderately high temperature are proof that quartz will crystallize at relatively low temperature and pressure.

The rocks on the earth's surface and even at several feet deep are continually being broken down by weathering, erosion and chemical action. In this manner silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) is released.

Water circulating down from the earth's surface picks up the silica, the further it travels through the earth the more silica it carries until it reaches the saturation point. When this saturation point is reached the water can carry no more silica. As long as conditions remain stable the water will pick up no more silica nor will it deposit any of it. However the slightest change in temperature or pressure or the entrance of some foreign material into the solution will cause it to become supersaturated and it must deposit some of the silica as a solid.

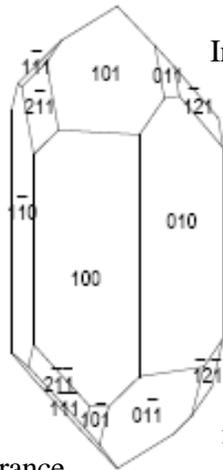
If conditions are favorable the silica atoms will flow together in a symmetrical manner and form a hexagonal quartz crystal. The crystals are usually deposited in cracks, crevices and pockets in the earth that have been caused by the cooling of the earth's surface, by faulting of the rocks and by shifting of the earth. The crystal thus formed will have a six-sided prism terminating in a six-sided pyramid. If conditions are stable and the solution is

free from impurities the silica atoms will flow together slowly and smoothly. The prism of the crystal formed in this manner will be a perfect hexagon and the six faces of the pyramid will be equal. However, since conditions are rarely perfect in nature, quartz crystals may be found in various shapes and sizes.



The sides of the prism may be extremely unequal and the terminating pyramid may have some large faces and others barely visible. Yet no matter what shape or form the crystal may be, the resultant angles between each face and their relationship to each other will be the same in each and every crystal.

Quartz crystals are the foundation on which the basic law of crystallography was established. (However much a crystal of any mineral may vary in size or shape its corresponding interfacial angles are the same value, provided they are measured under the same condition.)



In studying the prism of a quartz crystal we find that opposite faces are parallel and their interfacial angles are  $120^\circ$ . The prism faces are rectangular in shape and their lateral edges form a right angle with the corresponding pyramid face.

In measuring the angle between each pyramid face and its corresponding prism face we find that the angle is almost  $142^\circ$ , making the inclination of the pyramid face substantially  $52^\circ$ .

Occasionally in addition to the regular faces of the crystal there will occur an extra face, rhomboidal in shape, separating the prism face from the pyramid face. More rarely there will occur between this rhomboidal face and the prism face a trapezoidal face. When this trapezoidal face appears on the right side of the prism face the crystal is called right-handed, when on the left side it is called left-handed.

*[From a pamphlet found at the Mt. Ida Chamber of Commerce; crystal drawings courtesy of Credo Schwab; Source: Hounds Howl, Volume 46, page 5, May 2007]*

# Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.

SFMS Field Trip Committee

Email Received February 26, 2007

## Graves Mountain "Rock Swap and Dig"

Friday, October 5, 6, 7, 2007

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**"Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia's premiere mineral location!"**

The SFMS Field Trip Committee has been in contact with the caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Clarence Norman Jr., in regard to his plans to hold two separate three day digs and rock swaps on the Mountain **October 5, 6, & 7, 2007**. He will have the mountain open for collecting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. All participants must stop at the welcome table in the Hospitality tent to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf cart type, four wheeled vehicles available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 p.m. each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

### Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the upper parking lot for tables to be setup for daily rock swaps. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hot food cooked on the grill, cold drinks and chips will be available for purchase on the mountain during all three days of these events. Don't forget to bring some extra money to buy the special "Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig" T-shirt!

**THESE DIGS ARE OPEN TO ALL SFMS CLUBS and the GENERAL PUBLIC!**

### Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. - 706-359-3862 (his business) or 706-359-2381 (his home)

**DIRECTIONS:** From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. Please park along the access road and then proceed to the "Welcome Tent" at the end of the pavement to obtain a liability release form and to make a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

SFMS Field Trip Committee:

Please reply by e-mail to: [dmc@gamineral.org](mailto:dmc@gamineral.org)

Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Committee Chair

### Graves Mountain Code of Conduct!

**Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.**

**CHILDREN WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE "Rock Swap and Dig", IF EACH CHILD IS UNDER CONTINUOUS ADULT SUPERVISION!**

**ALL pets must be kept under control and on a leash.**

**The Graves Mountain caretaker, Clarence Norman Jr., has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.**

**Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)**

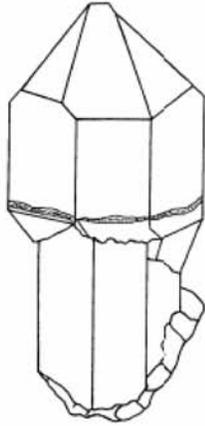
**STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!! NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!**

**NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA! (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)**

**EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK. (Absolutely no one is allowed on Graves Mountain after dark.)**

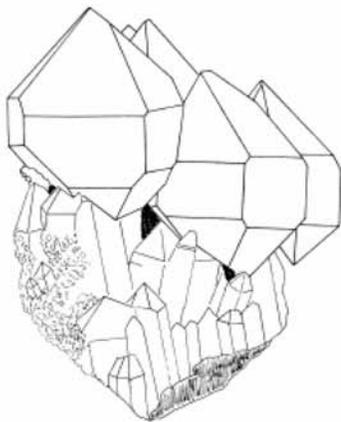
# HEXAGONAL PYRAMID

The top, pointed end of a quartz crystal is called the *termination*. When this termination has six sides and forms a peak, it is called a hexagonal pyramid. Can you find the pyramid on your quartz crystals? Cut this crystal model out on the solid lines. Fold on the dotted lines and tape the small tabs to the opposite crystal face.

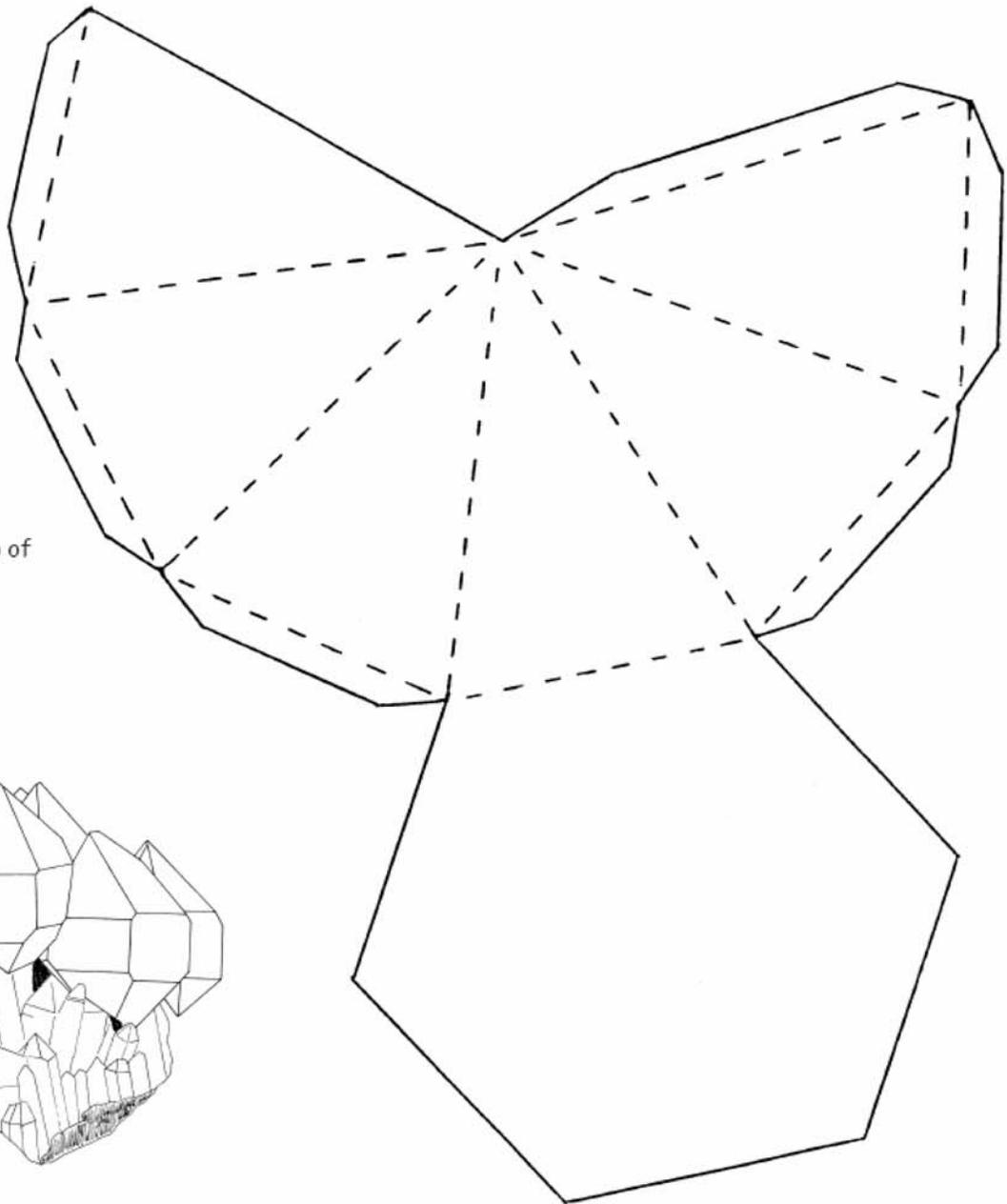


Smoky Quartz  
(the pyramid is the tip of  
the crystal).

From Nevada



Amethyst crystals (the pyramids are on the tops and bottoms of  
these crystals). From Colorado



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# **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 7:30 p.m., at the Azalea Adult Center; 1600 72nd Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida. 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**

**Board Meeting:**

(September - May)

First Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

**Cabbing Classes:**

TBA

**Clubhouse Maintenance:**

TBA

**Faceting, Silversmithing,**

**Wire Wrapping Classes:**

By appointment