

September 2020

Volume 54, No. 1 Page 1

## President's Message:

It's the start of a new year for our club, and it's like no other we've ever had. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed life as we knew it, most likely for a very long time to come.

To begin with, the 2019-20 Board members met via Zoom and after much discussion determined we will not be able to host our show in 2021. There are just too many unknowns. Since 75% of the club's annual income is from the show, this will have a serious financial impact. Reduction of shop time and classes has made a further limit on club income. We will have sufficient income to keep the utilities on and pay the property tax, but that's about all.

The 2019-21 Board, under emergency procedures as outlined in the by-laws, has authorized the appointment of the new Board, but many of the duties of the Board require a vote of the general membership. Without the ability to hold general meetings, things are pretty much at a standstill for the time being.

I encourage each of you to pay your annual dues promptly, by mail to the Membership Chair, Donna Sapp. The club needs every dollar in these times.

Stay safe.

*Julia Larson*

Julia Larson

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### NEW FEATURE!!! MEMBER HIGHLIGHT CORNER!

This month, for the first "Member Highlight" it goes along with a HUGE thank you!

Member Debbie Hamilton, of Mulberry, FL, gave the club a very kind and generous donation, in the spirit of keeping the Club going during these difficult times.

I told Debbie that I wanted to start this new feature and I asked her to tell us a little about herself:

Debbie is originally from St. Petersburg, having lived there since the early 1960's, when in 1995 she moved to Mulberry (which is in Polk County, south of Lakeland) for work. Before retiring, she designed software for credit card systems. She took her first metal working class a month after retiring six years ago, and has loved it ever since!

She joined SGAMS two years ago when she realized that there were silver smithing and casting classes.

I asked her whatever brings her to drive the +/- 60 miles to SGAMS! She said that while there are two Gem & Mineral clubs closer to her, open bench time where she can work on her own designs and not someone else's is a **very big deal** to her! And now she is also starting to learn how to cab!

Debbie, thank you for your generosity and your enthusiasm for SGAMS!



"Rocks are records of events that took place at the time they formed. They are books. They have a different vocabulary, a different alphabet, but you learn how to read them." - John McPhee

Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2020-2021

EMAIL FOR THE FOLLOWING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IS: SGAMS2020@GMAIL.COM

Julia Larson, President 727-410-3781

Richard Bunton, Vice President 570-592-6562

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322

Patricia Church, Treasurer 941-718-0664

Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary 315-380-7037  
Email: peecheene8@gmail.com

Kelly Nolen, 3 Year Director 440-953-8711  
OR 440-346-8705 (no text)

Breta McGuire, 2 Year Director 727-744-7344  
(PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR A CALL BACK)

Irene Muench, 1 Year Director 727-421-5832

Sherry Staley, 1 Year Director 727-480-6730

Bill (William) Schmidt, Facilities 727-657-0998

Bill (William) Schmidt, Show Chair 727-657-0998

Sandy Theisz, Show Dealer Chair 727-686-1209

Donna Sapp, Membership 727-420-0383  
Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com

JoAnn Knoss, Dinner Committee 727-238-8345

Debra Bremer, Webmaster 727-298-0061  
Email: bremerlapidary@yahoo.com

Susan Biel, Editor, Rock-A-Gram 315-380-7037  
Email: peecheene8@gmail.com



The rocks. They carry the chronology of water.  
All things simultaneously living and dead in your hands  
- Lidia Yukanavitch

Rocks in my path? I keep them all.  
With them I shall build my castle

- Nemo Nox



# NOTICES

## **REMINDER: IT IS SEPTEMBER—AND YOUR ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!**

The Club needs all members to pay their dues now, more than ever!

Yearly dues are \$20 single and \$30 for family [*Family means spouse and/or at least one child under 18 living in your home*]

So please don't delay—make your check out to: **SGAMS** — and send it to:

**Donna Sapp**

**3200 74th Avenue North**

**St. Petersburg, FL. 33702**

*Thank you!!*

## **MARCH SHOW – A “NO-SHOW”**

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society will not host a show in March 2021. After much deliberation, the Board agreed we could not guarantee a safe environment for members, vendors or the public. The vendors from this year's show were notified so they could make their plans accordingly.

While a location for the 2022 show has tentatively been identified, the venue has been closed during the pandemic so we have been unable to negotiate a contract. As soon as the location has been reopened, we will make every effort to secure it for our usual time slot, the first full weekend in March.

Julia Larson, President

## **YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT**

By the time you read this, there will be only a few weeks until the November election. This may well be one of the most important elections in our lifetime. If you are not already voting by mail and wish to do so, contact your county election supervisor's office to request a mail ballot.

YOU MUST SIGN AND DATE THE BACK OF THE MAIL BALLOT ENVELOPE AFTER YOU SEAL IT. If the envelope is not signed, your vote will not be counted. If you send your ballot through the US Post Office, *please mail it early*. You can also drop your ballot personally in any authorized location. You can check whether your ballot has been accepted and counted by going online to your county election supervisor's web site. Remind your family, friends and neighbors to vote.

No matter who you support in this election, PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED and

**PLEASE VOTE**



## NOTICES, cont.

### FUND-RAISING AUCTIONS

Dear SGAMS Members:

As you know, the pandemic has had its impact on our club – the General meetings are postponed, classes and workshop times are curtailed or currently suspended, and the decision was made that the future is too uncertain to hold the Annual Show in March 2021.

Meanwhile, our clubhouse still has its monthly utility expenses – just to maintain the building and the grounds- plus the annual expenses of taxes and insurance (see more on this under “Dues are Due” page 4).

Earlier in August we tried our first online auction using the website BetterWorld.org, which is specifically tailored to non-profits (i.e. low usage fees). Because of the perceived “gold mine” we have in the bin in the club yard of agatized coral, we started there; it was mildly successful, netting us \$152.

Here is where you come in! We need to have a wider range of items with a greater appeal to reach a bigger audience = more money! We are asking members to donate from your own collections, jewelry, faceted stones or cabochons that you have made, tools or equipment, - whatever you can – of *quality*, and general appeal.

We will be setting up a donation box at the clubhouse, and times when you can have access to drop your items off. We will set up a system with a form to complete, describing your item(s) and your contact information.

Once we have a reasonable amount of items, we will need some volunteers (note: limited to a few at a time to maintain a COVID safe environment) to prepare them for an auction. We will be photographing, logging and uploading the information onto the website. After the auction, items will need to be boxed and potentially shipped by USPS.

We will also need *everyone* to send the link for the auction to *everyone* they can!! Post it on your Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat or whatever social media site you can. The simple act of a few clicks and keystrokes on your part could be the lifeline to keep the clubhouse going!

So, go now, look through your collections, items you have made, and please choose something(s) that you feel will grab that buyer’s eye! Create a bidding war! And keep the lights on!!

Thank you – and keep a lookout for emails with further details!

Susan Biel

EMAIL—[peecheene8@gmail.com](mailto:peecheene8@gmail.com)

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 6, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Joe Cooper at 7:30 p.m. Board members in attendance were President Joe Cooper, Dan Stefanski, Gerri Groves, Pat Davis and Dave Watson. Also attending the meeting were Julia Larson, Bill Schmidt, Irene Muench, Pat Church, Kelly Nolen.

**Show for 2020-2021-**

**Motion by Pat Davis, because of the Covid 19 virus and the unknown extent of the virus and the long term outcome, to not have a show in the next year. Motion approved.**

Election of new officers, Motion by Pat Davis to have Susan Biel send out a newsletter to inform the members that at the next Board meeting, the current Board of directors will approve the incoming slate of Board of directors. Pat Davis would also like Susan Biel to write a description of what makes a good donation.

Slate of Board of Directors for 2020-2021

President: Julia Larson

Vice President: Rick Bunton

Recording Secretary: Gerri Grove

Treasurer: Pat Church

Corresponding Secretary: Dan Stefanski

Past President: Greg Stephenson

3 year Director: Shamus Walker

2 year Director: Irene Muench

1 year Director: Kelly Nolen

Submitted by

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Joe Cooper. Board members in attendance were Joe Cooper, Susan Biel, Dave Watson, Rick Bunton, Pat Davis and Gerri Groves.

Also attending were Julia Larson, Kelly Nolen, Pat Church, and Bill Schmidt.

Treasurer's report- Pat Church presented the Treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept and file for audit.

Dan Stefanski submitted his resignation effective immediately. Susan Biel said that she would take over the Corresponding Secretary's position.

General meeting via Zoom is set for Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is to elect the new Board and approve the changes to the By-laws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary

## SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Meeting was called to order by acting President Susan Biel. Board members in attendance were Susan Biel, Dave Watson, Rick Bunton, Pat Davis and Gerri Groves.

Also attending were Kelly Nolen, Sherry Staley, Irene Muench, Breta McGuire, and Pat Church.

Election of Officers for 2020-2021 year. Motion by Pat Davis to allow the current Board of Directors to elect the incoming nominees, via the Board invoking the emergency clause in the By-laws for this purpose only, and then go back to the regular By-laws.

Susan Biel read the ballot for the new officers. Motion by Pat Davis to accept these people as the new Officers and Directors. Motion approved.

Officers for the new year are as follows

President: Julia Larson

Vice President: Rick Bunton

Recording Secretary: Gerri Groves

Treasurer: Pat Church

Corresponding Secretary: Susan Biel

Directors

3 years: Kelly Nolen

2 years: Breta McGuire

1 year: Sherry Staley

1 year: Irene Muench

Pat Davis then asked the new Board to repeat the oath of office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary



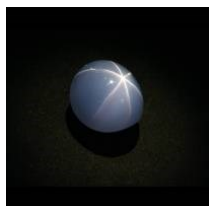
## Signs that you are a Rockhound

How many can you check off??

- The sign on the side of the highway says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- You care more about what happened to the diamond in the movie "Titanic" than the people.
- You will use spit on rocks to show off the wonderful colors.
- A truck throws a rock into the windshield of the car and you examine the rock first.
- You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
- You think the primary function of road cuts is for easy mineral collecting.
- You associate the words "hard rock" with a value on the Mohs scale instead of music or a casino.
- The local university's geology department requests permission to hold field trips in your back yard.
- Your pets are named Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl.
- When you move, your yard rocks get packed up too
- First on your Christmas list is to attend the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.
- You've spent more than ten dollars for a book about rocks.
- You just happen to have a UV or fluorescent flashlight in your pocket/purse
- You know why it is important to have a penny that is from 1982 or older
- You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
- You know that Young Harris isn't the Harris' last son
- Your vacations are centered on rock mining sites.
- You pack a pick and shovel for your vacation.
- You can point out where Tsumeb is on a world globe.
- You associate the word "saw" with diamonds instead of "wood".
- Your social media home page has pictures of your rocks.
- You have more photos of your rocks and rock hunting trips than of family
- You had pet rocks before there were Pet Rocks

[borrowed from Rockhound.com, and edited]

## MINERAL OF THE MONTH:



### Sapphire, Birthstone for September

*Weighing in at 563.35 carats, the Star of India is one of the largest sapphires in the world, with a unique star shape that appears on both sides.*

The name Sapphire derives from Greek "sappheiros" - blue. In antiquity, any blue stone such as [lazurite](#), was called Sapphire.

At first only the blue variety was called Sapphire. Today corundums of gemstone quality of all colours except red are called Sapphire. The most desired colour is a pure cornflower-blue. Some blue and grayish-blue Sapphires (Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tanzania, Colombia, and others) exhibit a reddish or violet-red tint under artificial light - the alexandrite effect which is caused by admixtures of chromium and vanadium, the intensity is related to the concentration of these elements.

Inclusions of [rutile](#) needles cause a silky shine; aligned needles cause a six-rayed star sapphire.

Sapphires are commonly worn in jewelry. Because of remarkable hardness (9 in Mohs Scale), Sapphires are used in some non-ornamental applications (scientific instruments, high-durability windows, etc.)

\*from [gemdat.org](http://gemdat.org)

The magnificent 423-carat Logan Sapphire was cut from a crystal mined in Sri Lanka and is one of the world's largest faceted



## Helpful Links:

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 Societies Website at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

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

Pinellas Geological Society: [www.pgs.rocks](http://www.pgs.rocks)

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

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

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

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



Are you a member of SGAMS,  
and want to promote your busi-  
ness?

Place Your Ad Here.

### **Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only\***

\* please see CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID, PAGE 13

**CABBING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm**

**Thursdays 12 to 4pm**

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Larry Murray 727-686-1314

**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

**CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID (revised 9/2020)**

Dear SGAMS Member

We sincerely hope that all of our members have been staying safe during this most stressful time. Due to the continuing pandemic and County guidelines for COVID-19, the SGAMS Board of Directors made the decision to provide shop time, however, to protect our members and our moderators the number of members allowed in our shops at any time has been limited.

**Cab Shop reopening guidelines.**

At the beginning of the week, Moderators will be contacted to determine if they will be holding shop. Then an email will be sent out to all members, announcing the schedule and it will contain the Moderator's contact information so that you may connect with them directly. If there are openings, you will be put on the schedule.

Please be advised that you must be scheduled for your shop time. If you do not receive permission from your moderator, please do not just show up, for you will be turned away. We must ensure adequate social distancing so only three members at a time will be permitted to attend the Cab Shop session. The moderators will rotate individuals so everyone gets a chance to shop time. We ask for your patience as we develop a schedule that works for everyone.

**Silver Smithing Students**

For Silver Smithing Students our rules will be similar to the above. Joe Cooper will provide two days each week Tuesday 6 pm till 9 pm and Saturday from Noon till 4 pm.; because of the limited space in the silver room, only two students will be allowed at each work sessions. Joe will send me notification of class times, and when I send the email blast, his email will be included for you to contact him directly—this also applies to Casting Classes.

Please note:

- You must wear a face covering (mask) at all times during shop time or whenever you are within 6 feet of other members.
- As always you are required to clean up all the equipment that you use.
- If you are scheduled for a shop session or class, (please, please, please,) only attend if you are feeling 100% well. If you feel the slightest bit unwell please advise your moderator and stay home. We will all thank you for protecting our moderators and fellow members.

Susan Biel

SGAMS Corresponding Secretary

peechikeene8@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. **[NOTE FOR 2020: GENERAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, DUE TO COVID-19 ]**

Dues: \$20.00 single or \$30.00 couple/family; due annually each September

**Feel free to copy any material from this bulletin, but please list all byline credits**

If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the Rock-A-Gram, please email it to [peecheene8@gmail.com](mailto:peecheene8@gmail.com) with **"FOR THE ROCK-A-GRAM"** in the subject line, by the first Thursday of the month, between September and May. Thank you! ~ Susan Biel, Editor

\*[the club no longer has a Post Office box, and now receives mail at this location]

### **Webmaster**

(Website) **Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Debra Bremer  
Email: [bremerslapidary@yahoo.com](mailto:bremerslapidary@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (727) 298-0061  
[www.SGAMS.com](http://www.SGAMS.com)

### **Membership Committee**

(Membership)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Donna Sapp  
Email: [DSapp43@yahoo.com](mailto:DSapp43@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (727) 420-0383  
3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

### **Show Committee**

(Show Chair)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Bill Schmidt  
Email: [SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Facilities**

(Building Supervisor)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Bill Schmidt  
Email: [SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Dinner Committee**

(Club Dinners)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
JoAnn Knoss  
Email: [sgams2020@gmail.com](mailto:sgams2020@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 539-6388  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Dealer Contact**

(Dealer Chair)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Sandy Theisz  
Email: [sgams2020@gmail.com](mailto:sgams2020@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 686-1209  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL