

ROCK-A-GRAM



April, 2015



Volume 46, No. 7, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Location:

4619 69th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL

“Enameling Demonstration”

This month's program will be an enameling demonstration and class by *Holly Dodson*.

New Member Picnic - Sunday, April 19, 11:00 a.m.

Once again, we are hosting a picnic to welcome our new members, anyone who has joined since June 2014. We hope to have a lot of our “old” members on hand to meet and greet the newbies and get to know them.

The picnic will start at 11 a.m., with cooking to begin around 11:30 a.m. The club will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates, etc. If you are attending, please bring side dishes to share; salads, chips, desserts, etc. Drinks will be available in the club fridge at no cost for this event only. Feel free to bring your own adult beverages, if you wish.

Bug repellent is a good idea since sometimes the mosquitoes can be pretty fierce outside. While we won't be having another rock sale, if you happen to find anything in the dozens of crates in the yard, please let a board member know and we will be happy to accommodate you. **We hope to see you there!**

If your last names starts with N-Z, please bring goodies to or meeting to share. Thank you.

Board Members

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

Eric Odegaard, Vice President 727-333-5668
Email: erics.odegaard@gmail.com

Jerri Heer, Treasurer 419-344-9999
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Geri Groves, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322
Email: gerrigroves@yahoo.com

Donna Sapp, Correspondence
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Email: dsapp43@yahoo.com

Holly Dodson, Director 813-928-0372
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Dave Schwebel, Director.. ... 727-547-0364
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Dave Watson, Director. 727-541-2917
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Debbie Bremer, Editor 727-458-8767
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

Spring has officially arrived – though in my book it's really early summer. We are planning on a new air conditioning system for the cabbng workshop, something I know will be welcomed by regular users of the shop. No date has been set, but we hope to have it installed and running before it hits the 90's.

Our upcoming event on Sunday, April 19, is our New Members' Picnic. This is a chance to get to know folks in a way we can't really do in the short time frame of the general meetings.

If you are beginning to make your summer plans, remember the Federation workshop at the William Holland School. The dates are Sunday, June 7th through Saturday June 13th. There are 14 different classes scheduled this year. Our own Pat Davis is teaching a cabochon class, and there are even two junior classes on the schedule, so stash the computer games and get the kids up there for a week of fun. The schedule is posted online at www.sfmshworkshops.com, and on the Federation website at www.amfed.org/sfms and is also in the newsletter. This is the **ONLY** Federation workshop scheduled at William Holland this year. We have a few William Holland catalogs left at the clubhouse in case the Federation workshop date doesn't work for you. The Federation is also sponsoring two workshops at Wildacres. Dates for those are Monday August 17th - Sunday, August 23rd; and Monday, September 21st - Sunday, September 27th. The class schedules for these sessions are available at the web sites noted above.

We are moving along with some of the outside work on the clubhouse too. The fence has been installed. Cleanup, removal of two messy pine trees, and the deck replacement should be done in the coming weeks. We are also looking into closing in the back side of the breezeway.

Mark your calendars for our end of year dinner at the Olive Garden on Thursday, May 21. Details will be forthcoming.

Our auction last month was the most profitable we've ever had. Many thanks to our auctioneer extraordinaire Eric Odegaard. If you didn't make the meeting, you missed a great show.

Julia Larson, President

Annual Banquet: Installation of Officers, May 21st

Our end of year dinner and installation of officers for 2015-16 is scheduled on our regular meeting night, May 21st. It will be at the Olive Garden on US 19 N in Pinellas Park. You will order from the regular menu and separate checks will be provided. The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Please contact one of the below members, if you plan to attend. We need to provide an approximate head count to the restaurant a week before. Hope to see you all there.

Holly Dodson, 813-928-0372, prozac282@tampabay.rr.com

Donna Sapp, 727-420-0383, dsapp43@yahoo.com



Equipment Auction - Tampa Club

The Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club is holding a used equipment Auction on **Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m.**, preview 6-7 p.m. All area Rock clubs invited! They have just replaced a major portion of their lapidary shop equipment and are selling the older stock. They also have some equipment items and materials from donations. Location: 10207 Fisher Avenue, Tampa.

Jerri Heer

Monthly Bench Tips

By Brad Smith

Source: Canaveral Moonstone, April, 2015

WINDING JUMP RINGS Whenever you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house. To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.

TOUCHING UP A BEZEL Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc. If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So, if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones. My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

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 - <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/> Brad Smith is moderator of LAROCKS and teaches jewelry making in Santa Monica,



Upcoming Shows:

Email from Donna Sapp, Moonstone, April 2015

April 10, 11, 12, 2015: Orlando, FL

Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show, Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 South Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Website: www.cfmgms.org.

Hours: April 10, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
 April 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 April 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 18-19: Pinecrest, FL

Show and sale; Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild, Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show, Evelyn Greer Park, 8200 SW 124 Street, just half-a-block off US 1 in Pinecrest - with plenty of free parking.

Hours: Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Adults \$4.00, Seniors \$4.00, Students \$4.00, Children Free; There will be exhibits, demonstrations, displays, raffles, and vendors - as well as educational activities for both children and adults: jewelry-making, grab-bags, gem mining, geode splitting.; Web site: www.miamirockandgem.com.

June 13, 2015: Greensboro, NC

Piedmont Open Air Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show and Sale, Greensboro Gem and Mineral Club, Location: Greensboro Day School, 5401 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC, Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., www.ggmc-rockhounds.com

Welcome to New Members:

- Mary Matlock
- Barbara Klutho
- Corinne & Doug Floyd

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
www.AMFED.org,
 AFMS Newsletter, April 2015

2015 Regional Federation Shows and Conventions

California Federation
 June 12-15, 2015
 Lodi, CA

Eastern Federation
 October 21-23, 2016
 Rochester, NY

Midwest Federation
 May 23-24, 2015
 Wheaton, IL

Northwest Federation
 April 10-12, 2015
 Ogden, UT

Rocky Mountain Federation
 July 16-18, 2015
 Cody, WY

South Central Federation
 October 23-25, 2015
 Austin, TX

Southeast Federation
 November 6-8, 2015
 Melbourne, FL

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

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

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

Other Web Sites:

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

American Lands Access Association: www.amlands.org

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

The URL for CMGS web site is: <http://www.canaveralmgs.com/>

Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club: www.wrnc.ca
 Rock Vein Newsletter

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society: www.canaveralmgs.com, Canaveral Moonstone Newsletter

National Park Foundation:
www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks

Bob's Rock Shop, <http://www.rockhounds.com>.
 If you find any other interesting websites, please let me know and I will publish in newsletter.



Glass Top Display Cases For Sale:

The following sizes are available for purchase:

2-1/2" x 3-1/2" = \$3.00

3-1/2" x 4-1/2" = \$4.00

5-1/4" x 6-1/4" = \$5.00

8" x 12" = \$6.00

12" x 16" = \$9.00

If interested in purchasing any of these Glass Top Display Cases, contact: **Jack Hauser** at **727-520-5720**.

Filigree Wire

Canaveral Moonstone Newsletter, February 2015, Vol. M, No. 2

Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other. I like to use a screw gun, although a Dremel or Foredom also works well. Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite still at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.

Annealing the fine wire can be tricky. For a good anneal, all areas of the wire must be heated uniformly to just barely red and then immediately quenched in water. It's so easy to melt the wire if you're heating with a torch. The easiest way is to use an oven set at about 1150 F. Bend the wire into a coil, heat it for 5 minutes, and quench. If no oven is available, place the coil on a piece of copper or steel sheet and heat from the bottom.



Jump Ring Closing Pliers

Canaveral Moonstone Newsletter, February 2015, Vol. M, No. 2

Jump ring pliers have an indentation on both sides of their jaws. The jump ring is first placed in the indentation to close the ring. Then, turn the jump ring a quarter turn clock-wise in the pliers to form a slight oval with the opening of the jump ring on the side rather than top or bottom of the jump ring.



Doing so moves the opening of the jump-ring away from the top where it would be more prone to open back up. When a round jump ring is reshaped into an oval the opening of the jump ring automatically positions itself so it is hanging at the middle, not at the top by the link of the chain or the bottom by the charm. This makes for a much more secure connection for your charms.

Close jump rings in these grooved claws without scratching or twisting.

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Board of General Meeting
March 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Julia Larson at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report, motion by Sue Hazelden to approve the minutes as published in the Rock-A-Gram was approved.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Jerri Heer. Motion to approve and file for audit, was approved.

Nominating Committee:

The following names have been submitted for the board of directors for the coming year.

President, Pat Davis
Vice President, Eric Odegaard
Treasurer, Jerri Heer
Recording Secretary, Gerri Groves
Correspondence Secretary, Nikki Heim
Membership Chairperson, Donna Sapp
Past President, Julia Larson

Directors:

3 Year, Patty Reed
2 Year, Joe Cooper
1 Year, Dave Watson

Building:

The material for the fence has come in and it should be done on Friday.

New deck, need to schedule a date to clear the old deck. Date will be Sunday, March 22nd at 9:00 a.m. Anyone that can come out and help, please be there.

Education:

Wire wrapping class, Dave Watson states that he would like to have 4 people sign up for the class.

Show Report:

Bill Schmidt has set March 26, 2015 for the next show meeting to get your feedback on the show.

New member picnic is scheduled for April 19, 2015. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tonight's program is the annual auction; Eric Odegaard will be the auctioneer.

New members voted on after the general meeting

Motion by Julia Larson to accept the following people as members. Mary Matlock, Barbara Klutho, Corinne & Doug Floyd, was approved.

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

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

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

Saturdays, 9 a.m. - noon, (exception: closed last Saturday of each month)

Lou Codol

FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.

Dave Watson (727) 541-2917 or bwatson1@tampabay.rr.com

Contact Instructors, if interested in following classes:

ENAMELING: *Pat Davis (727) 323-2147, wayouttamygourd@gmail.com or*

Sandy Schwebel, dschwebel@tampabay.rr.com

FUSED GLASS: *Julia Larson (727) 410-3781, glassgal0947@gmail.com*

SILVER SMITHING: *Joe Cooper (727) 202-8095, je.cooper@outlook.com*

will be closed April 8th and 11th, reopen April 14th.

GEM TREES: *Jerri Herr (419) 344-9999, jheerx6@aol.com*

KUMIHIMO: *Sue Black (727) 345-8994, sueblack@tampabay.rr.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 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 (see schedule)

Faceting/Wirewrapping Classes:

Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m.

Open Studio:

First Tuesday/month

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.