

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello SGAMS Members,

I hope you and yours are well and enjoying the Spring weather.

SGAMS and I wish you a lovely Easter and hope you are able to celebrate with family and friends.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our April General Meeting.

Please stay safe and be well.

And, keep collecting those pretty rocks!

Sincerely,

Kelly Nolen

President, SGAMS



Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2021-22

Kelly Nolen, President
 Email: oescharmer@aol.com
 Phone: (440) 953-8711 (summer)
 (727) 584-2775 (winter)
 No texts on either

TBD, Vice President
 Email: Phone:

Patricia Church, Treasurer
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary
 Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com
 Phone: (315) 380-7037

Chandra McBride, 3 Year Director
 Email: celitehealth@outlook.com
 Phone: (813) 601-6007

Breta McGuire, 2 Year Director
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Sherry Staley, 1 Year Director
 Email: slstaley1956@gmail.com
 Phone: (727) 480-6730

Pat Davis, 1 Year Director
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

OTHER APPOINTED POSITIONS:

William (Bill) Schmidt,
 Building, and Annual Show Chair
 Email: SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com

Donna Sapp, Membership Chair
 Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com
 Phone: (727) 420-0383

Debra Bremer, Webmaster
 Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com
 Phone: (727) 534-0590

JoAnn Knoss, Annual & Holiday
 Dinner Chair
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com
 Phone: (727) 238-8345

Susan Biel, Bulletin & Publication
 Chair
 Rock-A-Gram Newsletter
 Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com
 Phone: (315) 380-7037

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ADD
 THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES TO
 YOUR CONTACTS SO THAT THEY
 DO NOT GO TO SPAM!**

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SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**BOARD MEETING****APRIL 7, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 710 pm. Present were: President Kelly Nolen, Breta McGuire, Susan Biel, Pat Church, Pat Davis, Julia Larson. Also present was Sue Hazelden.

Susan Biel said the yard sale/picnic is postponed until next year. She will send an email blast to members regarding the auction scheduled for the April meeting, as well as highlighting it in the Rock-a-Gram.

The club has been invited to participate in a Science Spectacular at the Lutheran Church of the Cross Day School (LCCDS) to be held Friday, May 13. Sue Hazelden suggested a presentation about rocks and minerals that are present in everyday household items. All grades kindergarten through 8th grade will attend the event. Tables will be provided.

The air conditioning in the cab room is not working properly. Julia will contact Carefree Air owner Mike McFadden, who installed the system, and ask him to check it. The building committee needs to ensure the filter is changed on a regular schedule.

The annual budget for the coming year was presented. There was discussion regarding an increase in the admission cost, the possibility of adding a couple dealers in the Griffin room, outside dealers in the fenced area adjacent to the building, the need for vendors with tools and findings, use of Square or other systems to accept credit cards, signage (several outside signs were removed by persons unknown), tote bags which were received but not sold for various reasons. The total budget for the June 2022-May 2023 was presented. A motion was made to accept the budget; it was seconded; the board voted to accept it.

The meeting was adjourned at 845 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Edited for General Publication SB

**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.****GENERAL MEETING, MARCH 17, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Kelly Nolen. New member Barbara Klutho, a former member of the Pinellas Geological Society, was introduced.

The treasurer's report was presented, highlighting a successful show. The hospitality chair is still working on a venue for the May end of year dinner.

Pat Davis thanked all who helped at the show.

Equipment report: one saw is down; needs bearings.

Karen Kulas spoke at length on volunteering.

Susan Biel introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Ryan, marine geoscientist. Dr. Ryan spoke about his trip to the edge of the Marianas trench, the lowest place on earth. His talk was enhanced by a slide presentation that left most of us wishing we had been there. His interest is in the mud volcanos at the edge of the trench. Instead of lava, these volcanos erupt serpentine and other minerals.

The meeting was adjourned at 820 pm.

**APRIL 21ST MEETING IS OUR
ANNUAL IN HOUSE AUCTION**

HELP THE CLUB WITH THIS MAJOR FUNDRAISER BY **DONATING** EXCITING AND **QUALITY*** ITEMS THAT WILL TEMPT AND ENTICE ALL OF US TO GET INTO A BIDDING FRENZY AND HAVE A FUN AND PRODUCTIVE TIME!

PLEASE COME EARLY SO THAT DONATED ITEMS CAN BE DISPLAYED AND VIEWED PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE AUCTION!

WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT CASH OR CHECKS, SO PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

THANK YOU TO SUE HAZELDEN FOR ACTING AS AUCTIONEER.



*THE FOCUS HERE IS TO RAISE SOME SERIOUS MONEY WITH SOME SERIOUSLY EXCITING STUFF, SO ONLY HIGH QUALITY ITEMS, NO TCHOTCHKE, PLEASE!



Just a side note for The General Meeting and Meetings in General:

*Please, everyone— put your best manners to use, especially when we have a Guest Speaker: **SILENCE** your cell phones and **PLEASE**, do not indulge in “side chatter” but instead give your full attention to the speaker -as you would wish if you were the person speaking.*

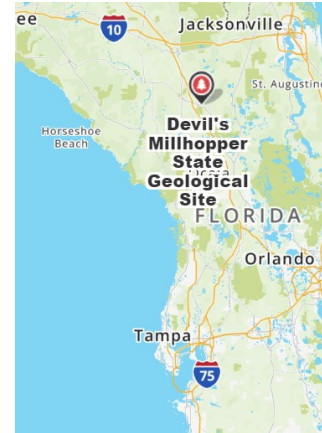
This applies to the entire meeting, because important things are being discussed and we ALL want to hear what is being said. Many thanks!



SHHHH!

Devil's Millhopper

Contributed By Charlie Wood



I visited Devil's Millhopper Geological State Park on April 9th. It was really cool! I saw eight mini waterfalls, lots of trees, a small lake, and most of all a sinkhole! Most of the rock that I saw was limestone decked out with moss! This is a beautiful park, and I would recommend it!

Facts:

This is one of only 2 geological state parks in Florida.

The sinkhole is 120 ft deep and 500 ft wide.

There is a nice 132 step staircase leading down.

Originally, it was called "Millhopper" because of its shape. Once bones were discovered, they called it "Devil's Millhopper" because people said it fed bodies to the devil.

The park is located in Gainesville, FL.

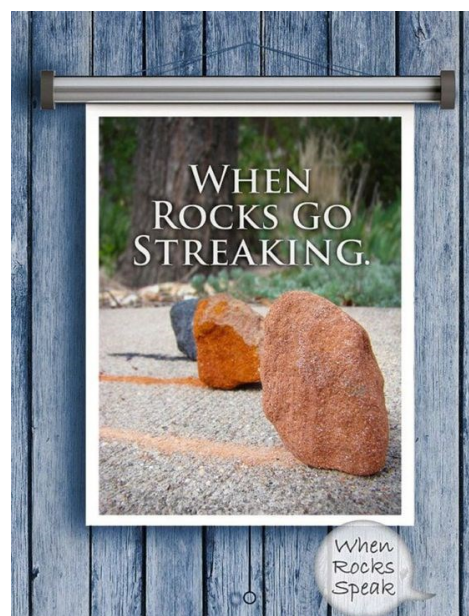
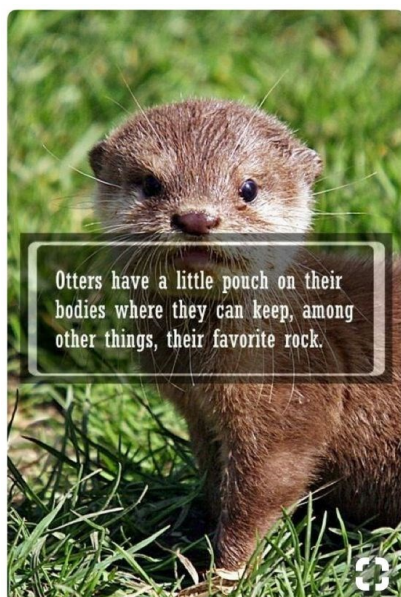
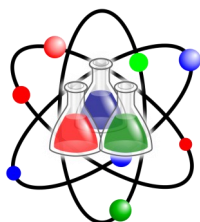
AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

A thank you to Jerri Heer for forwarding me an email from Ms. Kristi Gnage, a 6th-7th Grade Science Teacher at LCC Day School in St. Petersburg inviting us to be a part of their “School Science Spectacular” on Friday, May 13th, from 9:00–11:00, when the students in Kindergarten through 8th grade will be treated to science displays of all kinds. Ms. Gnage said that about 375 students will be participating in this event!

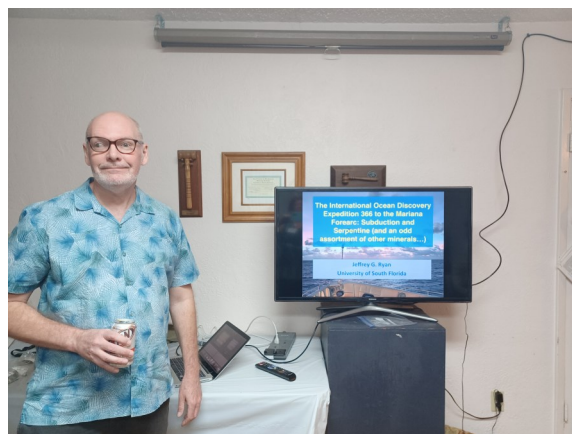
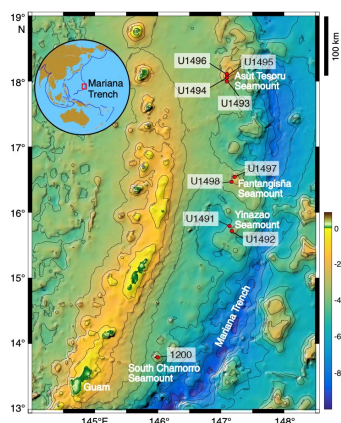
When this was discussed at the SGAMS Board Meeting, Sue Hazelden offered the idea of displaying minerals that are in our everyday lives, such as Halide—the salt on our tables, or like Kelly Nolen chimed in, Gypsum, in the walls of our houses!

This event will be brought up at the General Meeting on Thursday, April 21st. With this subject as our focus, if you have thoughts or are interesting in being part of this event, please write up your ideas, and we will most likely form a Committee to plan and execute this great Educational Opportunity for SGAMS!

~ Susan Biel, Editor



MARCH PROGRAM: A PRESENTATION BY DR. RYAN OF USF:



For the program at our March Meeting, we enjoyed "an evening of seriously weird mineralogy" with Dr. Jeffrey Ryan, Professor of Geology in the School of Geosciences at USF and his seagoing adventures on IODP Expedition 366 to the Mariana forearc, where the Science Team drilled into all sorts of strange and unexpected mineral assemblages erupting on the floor of the Pacific Ocean" ...

When you type "Marianas Trench" into Google Maps, you will find a red "pin" dropped in a very, very vast ocean of blue. Zooming out, it takes quite a bit before you see any reference to land—the most recognizable for us being the island of Guam, which is 365 km or 226 miles away. Which is itself 7,195 miles from the continental United States.

As explained to us by Dr. Ryan, the Marianas Trench (aka Forearc) is the deepest part of the ocean—SEVEN miles below the surface of the Earth. Dr Ryan traveled there to join the International Ocean Discovery Program [IODP]—with scientists from 30 other countries, to study the phenomena of the mud volcanoes that ring one edge of the trench. These volcanoes are made up of serpentine, but with core drilling samples, they determined that a lot more was going on inside these mounds. A whole kaleidoscope of chemical reactions are producing calcite, boron, olivine, sulfates, garnets and methane—and much more! All in an environment of highly acidic water.

Dr. Ryan told us of the ship that he was on, The Joides Resolution, which had some amazing features, such as stabilizers that kept the ship in place so that the massive core drilling equipment could be placed accurately within a 3% tolerance! Also, the derrick of the drill moved with the swells vertically, floating in place! Dr. Ryan shared some of the cultural aspects of the trip too—birthdays and holidays were observed, including the Scots enjoying a Robert Burns celebration complete with haggis and then ushering in the New Year with Auld Lang Syne on bagpipes.

Many thanks to Dr. Ryan for a seriously fascinating presentation!

SLATE OF OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR 2022-23

To Be Voted On at April 21, 2022 Meeting:

♦ PRESIDENT	SUSAN BIEL
♦ VICE PRESIDENT	KAREN KULAS
♦ RECORDING SECRETARY	JULIA LARSON (INCUMBENT)
♦ CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	PAT DAVIS
♦ TREASURER	PATRICIA CHURCH (INCUMBENT)
♦ 3 YEAR DIRECTOR	DEBBIE HAMILTON
♦ 2 YEAR DIRECTOR	SHAMUS WALKER
♦ 1 YEAR DIRECTOR	BRETA MCGUIRE
♦ 1 YEAR DIRECTOR	KELLY NOLEN

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (APPOINTED POSITIONS):

ANNUAL SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIR:	BILL SCHMIDT
SHOW VENDOR CHAIR:	BRETA MCGUIRE
ANNUAL HOLIDAY AND DINNER COMMITTEE:	JOANN KNOSS
BUILDING/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:	BILL SCHMIDT
EDUCATION COMMITTEE:	TBD
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:	DONNA SAPP
PROGRAM COMMITTEE:	KAREN KULAS
BULLETIN & PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:	SUSAN BIEL
	DEBRA BREMER (WEBMASTER)

WE ARE SEEKING:

As mentioned many times, our organization is run by VOLUNTEERS—and we are always in need of help with so many things that we have going on and that keep us going!

We are seeking individuals for the EDUCATION COMMITTEE and the FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE.

Stacy De Terlizzi and Friends, gave our club a generous donation (see article page 6) that is our “seed money” for future presentations and to get the youth in our community informed and more involved in our society. We need someone with charisma and ingenuity to engage younger members.

For the FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE—do you know just where to go for gem mining? How about sharing that special knowledge and help to coordinate Field Trips for members???

Please consider these critical roles that will keep SGAMS vibrant, viable and relevant in the coming years!



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On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com], you need to select:

SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY in the drop down menu.

— as your chosen non profit to receive donations from your eligible purchases, before you begin shopping.

Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Sorry, donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY is the last month for our Club Meeting Year, and when the Annual Installation Dinner for the newly elected Officers and Board Members is held.

Our Dinner Committee Chair, Joann Knoss, is working on finding us a suitable location to hold this joint Celebration and Dinner. Please be sure to tune in to your emails and the May "Rock-A-Gram" for updates on this Special Event! This years Dinner will be on Thursday, May 19th .

GEMSTONE OF THE MONTH: Diamond—*Green Diamonds!*



Since the Celebrity World is all a-flutter over the latest engagement of Jen and Ben [Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck], of course we will have to discuss the extremely rare GREEN DIAMOND that J.Lo is now seen sporting on her left hand.

The occurrence of truly green diamonds is an extremely rare. The green color is caused by the gem being exposed to a source of radiation, either uranium or thorium—over millions of years. The radiation alters the outer layer of electrons or carbon atoms in the diamond, and this changes the way that light passes through the stone resulting in different levels of intensity of green. Typically only a thin band of color is present, where the stone that Ben presented to Jen is an exceptionally rare stone with uniform saturation of a yellow-green throughout. Some gemologist, while cutting and polishing these rare gemstones will leave an area unpolished, called a “natural” which serves as proof that the stone’s color is genuine.

The exposure to radiation in these aforementioned diamonds was naturally occurring, although it is very common for stones to be irradiated by man-made means to achieve, for example, a blue topaz. The companies that use radiation for this must be registered with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and store the stones in a secure manner until the radiation dissipates enough for safe wearing.

Other famous green diamonds are the Dresden, a pear-cut beauty first mentioned in a newspaper article in 1772. A hefty 41 carats, it is not known if the rough was first mined in India or Brazil. The Aurora Green, 5.03 carat square cut with an amazing VS2 clarity is set in a ring, surrounded by pink round diamonds and it sold at auction for a price of \$16.2 million in 2016. Ms. Lopez’s ring, 8.5 carat green-yellow gem is valued at \$8.5 million dollars—gasp!

~ Susan Biel, Editor

References: Geology.com; Rockseeker.com

SGAMS OFFERINGS FOR MEMBERS —

Our club offers shop time to its members at a cost of \$3.00 per hour or any part of the hour. Classes are open shop with a monitor to provide assistance as needed.

In cabbing, participants will learn the basics of cutting, forming, and polishing a simple cabochon.

Faceting is the art of cutting and polishing angled faces on a gemstone; this class is at a cost of \$65.00 and the student will cut and polish one round brilliant stone.

Wire wrapping basic class allows you to set precious and semi-precious gemstones into simple metal frameworks made out of copper, silver, gold, and other materials.

Silversmithing class is to help with foundational silversmithing skills and finishing suitable for the novice or those with limited experience.

Wax casting is a \$50.00 class which includes one 3 inch flask, in two sessions, which involve investing spruced trees in preparation for the burnout process and then melting and pouring into the remaining cavity to produce the cast pieces. Finishing of the cast pieces is minimal and participants are encouraged to attend the Silversmithing Lab if they wish help in this last stage.

SEE PAGE 11 FOR CLASS SCHEDULING AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE INSTRUCTORS.

FOLLOW THESE LINKS TO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:

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  www.southeastfed.org

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

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society: www.canaveral-mgs.com

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society: www.cfmgs.org

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society: www.bonevalley.net

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: www.tampabayfossilclub.com

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: <http://www.tampabayrockclub.org/>

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County: www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

An amazing resource is the website: <https://geology.com> — a wealth of information on geology, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, etc. ; maps, and geology products for sale. .

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.



Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

CABBING: Thursdays 12 to 4pm Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive TEXT request by Tuesday Evening

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

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

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. Dues: \$20.00 single or \$30.00 couple/family; due annually each September. *[the club no longer has a Post Office box, and now receives mail at this location, EXCEPT for dues, which should be mailed to Donna Sapp, Membership Committee Chair) If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the Rock-A-Gram, please email it to peechekeene8@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