

ROCK-A-GRAM



April 2024

Volume 89

April Jewels

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Welcome to the April issue of the Rock-a-Gram!

This month, as rainstorms intermittently sweep across the landscape and begin to hint at the warm embrace of the approaching summer, we turn our focus to the remarkable transformations within the world of rocks, minerals and gems. Like the April showers that cleanse and renew, we explore the processes that polish and perfect these natural treasures.

As the seasons transition, so does our journey through the ever-evolving landscape of geology. We invite you to continue this exploration with us, reveling in the natural beauty and enduring mysteries of the Earth beneath our feet.

Submissions to Newsletter

If possible, please send all submissions for the newsletter by the Friday before the general meeting.

This will allow for the creation and publication of the newsletter by that Sunday evening, which is our deadline.

Thank you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm happy to advise that there is nothing earthshaking going on with the club right now. After all the effort that went into our show I, for one, am enjoying a little slower pace. April will be our last business meeting of the season. May is dinner and installation of officers. Then we're all off for the summer to discover new and wonderful rockhound adventures that we can brag about when we reconvene in September.

Karen has an interesting program lined up after the election of officers this month. The proposed slate of officers was announced at the last meeting and will be published elsewhere in this newsletter. Of course, if anyone else wants to run for any of the positions nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Joann has found a "new-to-us" place to have our May dinner. She will have details about that at the meeting too.

See you there - Thursday, 7 PM

Pat

2024-25 Proposed Slate of Officers

President Pat Davis
 Vice President Linda Taylor
 Recording Secretary Susan Clark
 Corresponding Secretary Kelly Nolen
 Treasurer Shamus Walker
 3 year Director Mike McSunas
 2 Year Director Brenda Smith
 1 Year Director Karen Kulas
 1 Year Director Debbie Hamilton



MEETING

Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 18th

The April general meeting will feature an election on the proposed slate of officers. Those elected will be installed during the May dinner meeting.

The meeting will also feature a social Bingo activity to help us get to know each other better.

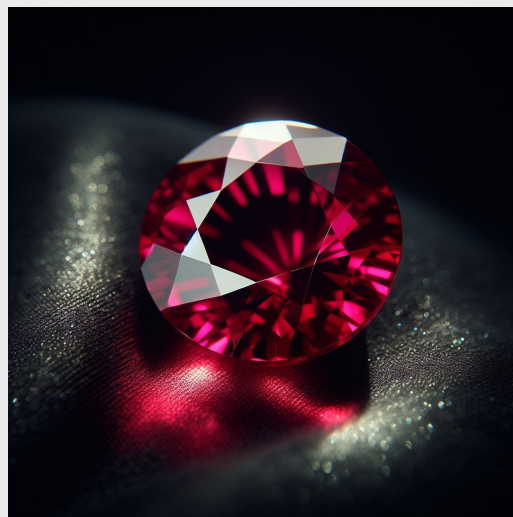
General meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April, 7:00 pm, at our clubhouse, 4619 69th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709.

The public is cordially invited to attend these membership meetings.

December and May meetings are special, and as such, the time and place of meeting will be announced ahead of time in a bulletin.

RANDOM ROCK FACTS!

- **Bismuth** has a higher atomic number than uranium but is non-radioactive, which makes it a unique element in the periodic table. It also has one of the lowest levels of thermal conductivity among metals.
- **Olivine**, a mineral commonly found in meteorites, can also be found on beaches in Hawaii in the form of green sand due to volcanic activity. It is one of the first crystals formed as magma cools.
- **Azurite** was historically important for producing a pigment known as “blue verditer”. Interestingly, azurite undergoes a chemical change and morphs into malachite over time when exposed to carbon dioxide and moisture.
- **Galena** crystals can be used as semiconductors and, due to their ability to detect radio signals, were used to make the earliest crystal radios in the 1900s.



- **Ulexite** is known as “TV Rock” because of its natural fiber optic properties. It transmits light along its fibers and a clear image of anything placed beneath it can be seen on the surface as if the object were on a TV screen.
- **Barite** is a mineral consisting of barium sulfate and is primarily used to make high-density concrete for blocking X-ray emissions in hospitals, power plants, and laboratories. It also serves as a weighting agent in drilling fluids in the oil and gas industry.
- **Sphalerite** is the chief ore of zinc and contains significant amounts of cadmium sulfide. It has a unique property called triboluminescence, which means it sparks when struck. This feature is due to the electrical charges released when crystals are fractured.



SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

Reports of Officers

Secretary — A motion by Shamus Walker to approve the minutes of the February meeting as published in the newsletter was approved.

Treasurer — A motion by Sue Hazelden to accept the treasury report and file for audit was approved.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Building — We are still working on getting the property ready for painting the club house, which involves getting the eaves, ground around the house prepared and pressure washing. Any volunteers for carpentry work or clean up would be appreciated.

Show — Congratulations to Tom McNaughton on his great leadership and to all the volunteers who put in their time and efforts to make this year's show a huge success. As one part of that success Sue H. said the grab bags this year were all sold out.

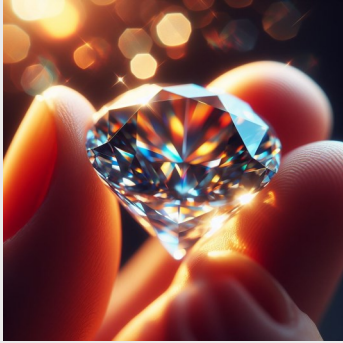
Newsletter— A special thanks to Kat for a wonderful looking newsletter, it is requested that any items to go into the newsletter be submitted no later than the Friday before the upcoming general meeting.

Presentations — A big thanks to Gene McDivitt, a miner, cutter and wholesaler of Koroit boulder opals, who gave a very informative talk about his opal mining ventures in Australia. He gave a slide show, which had many photos of the beautiful opals he's mined. After his talk and photos about his mine and life there in Australia it's clear to see that it's not for the faint of heart.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Submitted by:
Susan Clark, Recording Secretary





SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 4th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

Board members present were Sue Hazelden, Kelly Nolen, Shamus Walker, Karen Kulas, Tom McNaughton, Mike McSunas, Sandra Whittington, JoAnn Knoss and Susan Clark.

Reports of Officers

Secretary — A motion by Sue Hazelden to approve the minutes of the March meeting as published in the newsletter was approved.

Treasurer — To be emailed to board for review.

Reports of Committee Chairs

Building — Paint colors for the club house repaint were looked at by the board members and two were chosen, they are Positive Energy #S370-7u and Sophisticated Teal HDC-CL-22u. There will be an email sent out for any club members who own a pressure washer to volunteer to help in pressure washing the house in preparation for the painting of the house. Also, volunteers to help in preparation of the ground area around the house. The board discussed pricing for a new air conditioner for the club house and setting up an escrow account to save for any big-ticket items that are needed in the future. Shamus requested \$3000.00, for building supply needs for 2024.

Activities — The May dinner will be held May 16th at the restaurant, Quaker Steak and Lube, 10400 49th Street N., Clearwater, FL at 7:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the upcoming general meeting and an email will come out with information on this.

Equipment — The board approved a motion to buy a steam cleaner for the jewelry room not to exceed a cost of \$375.00.

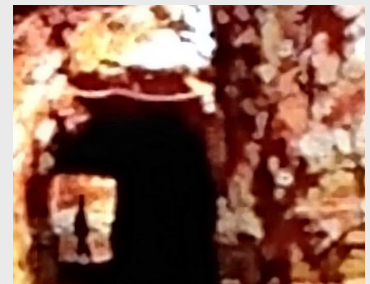
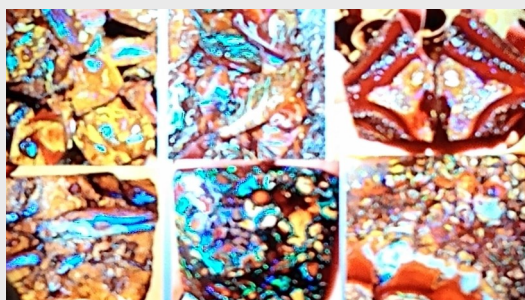
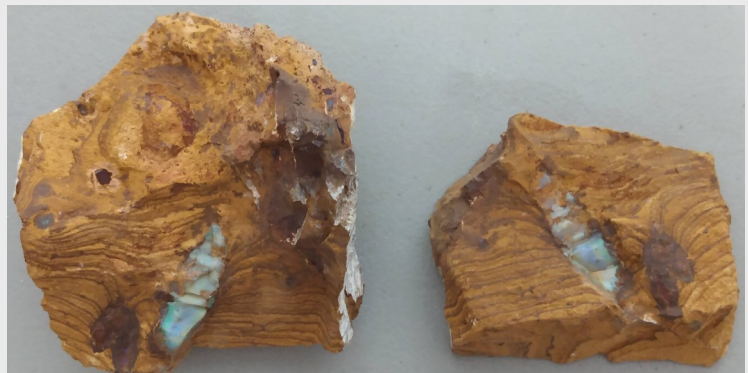
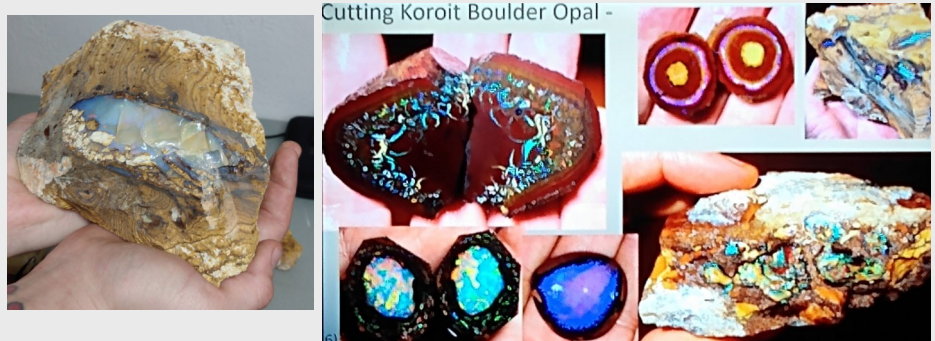
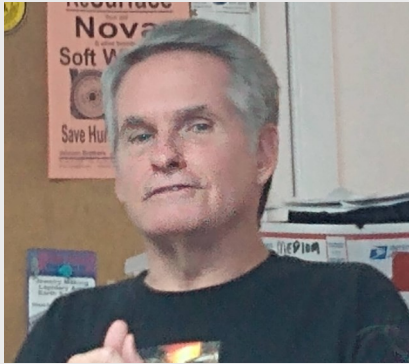
Newsletter — Any materials for the newsletter will be due the Friday before the general meeting to get it out in a timely manner.

New Business — A motion was presented to the board to increase the membership dues by \$5.00 for individuals and family memberships for the future, this motion was approved. Dues will be due in September. During the April 18th general meeting, a program will be given by Pat Church on her trip to Summerville GA to rockhound. Elections will also be held afterward for officers for 2024/25 and a game of Bingo.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.
Submitted by: Susan Clark, Recording Secretary

OPAL PRESENTATION!

We want to express thanks to Gene McDevitt for sharing a presentation with our club on his koroit boulder opals. It was quite informative, and he gave us the opportunity to take some of his mined opals home with us.



Summerville Lace Agate Trip

In Summerville, Georgia, on Route 27, is located the Patty Quarry—Home of the Summerville Lace Agate.

It is an active quarry Monday through Saturday, but on Sunday the quarry is open to the public. All that is asked of the public is that they sign a waiver located in the mailbox behind the office and not to disturb the machinery.

And now for the good parts: There aren't any fees for collecting. You can drive your vehicle right up to the area where you would like to collect. Most of the digging has been done for you.

There are piles of clay-caked rocks ready to be investigated. Some people prefer to dig into a wall to try to find a pocket of lace agate. Most people appeared to collect from the rock piles. Off to the left there are mounds of small stones suitable for tumbling. This is how the quarry appeared February of this year.



Mrs. Patty visited the quarry and shared this tip: look for where the trucks have driven. Pieces fall off and get pushed into the road.

It would be good to have some sort of pry tool to get those pieces sunk into the road. Unless you were interested in digging into a wall in hopes of finding an agate vein, no tools are necessary except maybe the pry tool.

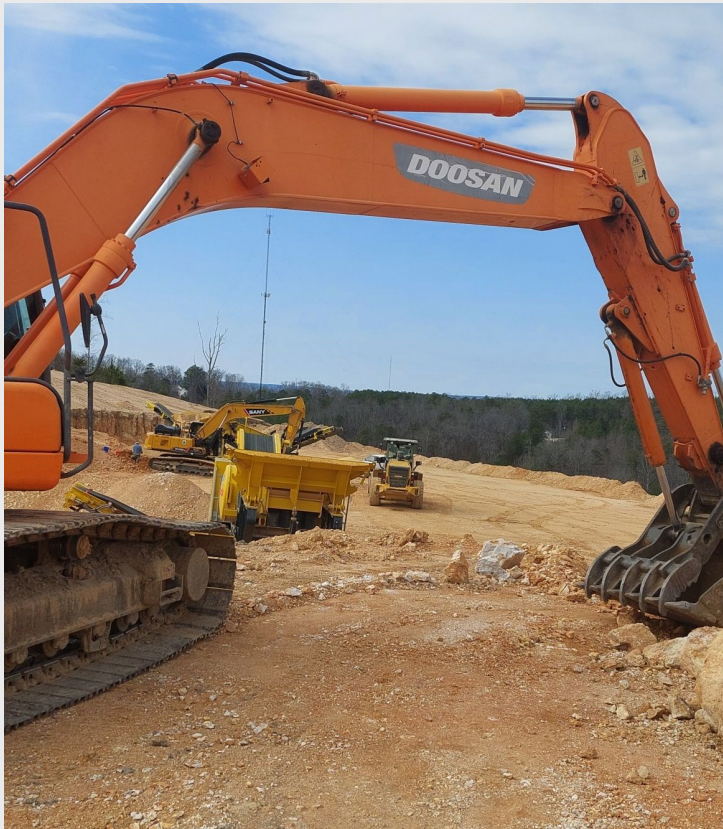
Bring your own water and snacks!

More pictures on the next two pages!

Summerville Lace Agate Trip



Summerville Lace Agate Trip



Class Schedules & Info

Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

CABBING, Workshop & Instruction: Thursdays 12 to 4pm

Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive a text request by Tuesday Evening.

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

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



FACETING/WIRE WRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

Dave Watson 727-608-3661 or sgams2020@gmail.com

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: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

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

WAX CASTING: By Reservation, announced by Email Blast to All Members

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

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 would like help in this last stage.

Be aware of scams!

We have had reports of some of our club members being reached out to by scammers. These scammers are pretending to be club members or leaders and are asking for gift cards. We want to emphasize that no SGAMS member will ever ask you for gift cards.

Be aware of these 4 common scams

"I thought it was someone from the bank!"

Scammers are professional imposters. They'll pretend to be a relative, a utility company or even Bank of America.

"They said I had an overdue bill."

Scammers want to make you panic and overreact without thinking. A loved one in trouble, a late bill or an amazing deal are all tactics to throw you off.

"She needed my account info right away."

Scammers will want your money fast. They'll tell you to send funds immediately, often via wire transfer or payment apps, where the money is unlikely to be recovered.

"He was so friendly."

Scammers often use social media to deceive. They'll try to befriend you, strike up a relationship, then hit you with exclusive "insider" deals and get-rich-quick schemes.

Please be aware of these scammers.

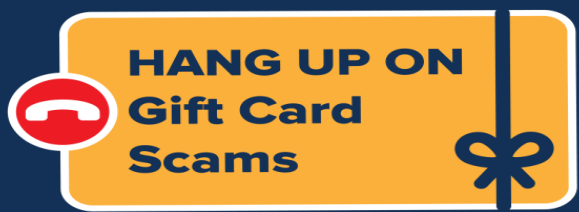
Do not send them gift cards or money.

Please reach out to us and inform us if you receive an email along these lines.

Included are some tips for scams in general. Be safe, be smart!

Buying a gift card to pay someone? Stop! It's a scam.

Gift cards are for gifts, not payments.



Report gift card scams at: ReportFraud.ftc.gov

For more information, visit: Ftc.gov/giftcards





Closing Notes & Info

This is the official newsletter of the **SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**, located at 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.

Dues: \$20.00 for a single person or \$30.00 for a couple/family; paid annually and collected each September.

Benefits: 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.

Handling Donations:

Donors are encouraged to bring their donations to the clubhouse during board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September through May), or to membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September through May).

Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.

Julia Larson is the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. Donors can contact Julia at: jmlsgams22@gmail.com, or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave your name and number in order to return the call.



Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. Application for Membership

Name: _____
Last Name
First Name
Spouse/Significant Other

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Occupation(s): Self: _____ Spouse/Significant Other: _____

Type of Membership: _____ Adult Single (\$20) _____ Family (\$30)
 Family means spouse/significant other and/or at least one child under 18 living in your home.

WILL YOU DONATE TIME AND TALENT TO THE CLUB? _____ Yes _____ No

Reason for Joining	Equipment Owned	Hobby Assets
<input type="checkbox"/> Share Mutual Interest <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips <input type="checkbox"/> Club House <input type="checkbox"/> Club Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Saw <input type="checkbox"/> Flat Lap/Cab machine <input type="checkbox"/> Grinder <input type="checkbox"/> Faceting Machine <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Will show gem and mineral collection to club? <input type="checkbox"/> Hobby slides, CD, VHS <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

What other rock/mineral clubs are you (or have you been) a member? _____

What position(s) have you held in other clubs? _____

Service to the club: *It is understood by joining this club (I/we) are willing to serve.* The following committees have been checked where (I/we) have an interest and believe (I/we) can render assistance.

(Indicate all areas where you have an interest and can assist YOUR club)	
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Serve as a Committee Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> B. Serve on a Committee. <input type="checkbox"/> C. Assist VP with programs for monthly meetings. <input type="checkbox"/> D. Work with Field Trip Chairman on club trips. <input type="checkbox"/> E. Assist at annual show: Ticket Booth <input type="checkbox"/> F. Assist at annual show: Information Booth <input type="checkbox"/> G. Assist at annual show: Club Booth <input type="checkbox"/> H. Assist at annual show: Silent Auction <input type="checkbox"/> I. Assist at annual show: Gem Mining <input type="checkbox"/> J. Assist with advertising and promotion of show	<input type="checkbox"/> K. Serve as club officer or board member <input type="checkbox"/> L. /Historian. <input type="checkbox"/> M. Assist Newsletter Editor (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> N. Assist with maintenance of clubhouse <input type="checkbox"/> O. Assist in contacting membership-phone/email <input type="checkbox"/> P. Working as a club Instructor (capping, silver, faceting, wire wrapping, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Q. Hospitality for monthly meetings (set up coffee and supplies) <input type="checkbox"/> R. Assist with social media-Facebook, etc

Please list any other skills, knowledge, experience you have that could be helpful to the club. (Ex: accounting, electrical, legal, web design, computer skills, marketing, etc.)

References: Preferably local person who is in the hobby.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

**Make checks payable to Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society
 Mail application to: Sandra Whittington, 6401 99th way N, St. Petersburg, FL 33708**

Amt Dues Paid: _____ Check No. _____ Date: _____

 Membership Chairman Treasurer Date Accepted to Club

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC [SGAMS]
DONATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms

YOUR NAME (PRINTED)

CITY STATE ZIP CODE ADDRESS

EMAIL

() ()

PHONE NUMBER ACCEPTS TEXT? Y N ALTERNATE PHONE #

~~~~~

Please provide a description of each item you are donating, and a good faith estimate of its value (required). See note below regarding sales.

Table with 3 columns: #, Description, Valued @. The table contains 12 rows, with the first 6 rows having a '\$' in the 'Valued @' column.

Thank you for your generous donation, as noted above, to be sold or auctioned off for fund-raising. We did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. SGAMS is recognized as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law [generally speaking when a single item is valued at \$250 or greater, please consult a Tax Advisor for the best advice]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ ev 12/1/2022



# Sponsors



We thank our advertisers for their support and encourage membership to patronize them.

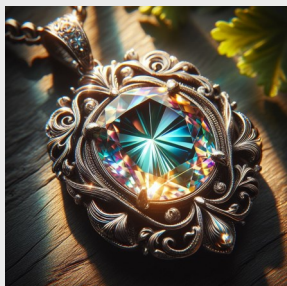
**JAY'S TREASURES**

**460 E. LEMON ST.**

**TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689**

**813-359-7025**





# Links



**Our Website:** [www.sgams.com](http://www.sgams.com)

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063572437643>

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/564631203904814>

|                                                    |                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| American Federation of Mineralogical Societies     | <a href="https://www.amfed.org/">https://www.amfed.org/</a>                                           |
| American Lands Access Association                  | <a href="http://www.amlands.org/">http://www.amlands.org/</a>                                         |
| Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies    | <a href="https://www.southeastfed.org/">https://www.southeastfed.org/</a>                             |
| National Parks Foundation                          | <a href="https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks">https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks</a> |
| Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society                    | <a href="https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/">https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/</a>                           |
| Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society              | <a href="https://cfmgs.org/">https://cfmgs.org/</a>                                                   |
| Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society | <a href="http://www.bonevalley.net/">http://www.bonevalley.net/</a>                                   |
| Tampa Bay Fossil Club                              | <a href="https://tampabayfossilclub.com/">https://tampabayfossilclub.com/</a>                         |
| Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club                   | <a href="https://tampabayrockclub.org/">https://tampabayrockclub.org/</a>                             |
| Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County        | <a href="https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/">https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/</a>       |
| Geology, Rocks, Minerals, Volcano, etc information | <a href="https://geology.com/">https://geology.com/</a>                                               |