

Hello SGAMS Members,

I hope you and yours are well and enjoying the Holiday Season. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to our Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, and to everyone who works 'behind the scenes' to keep SGAMS together. Especially during the rocky times we've been through. And, to our Members who've been with us through all of it.

I would also like to thank everyone who was able to attend our November Meeting. There were some awesome projects that were made in the past months that were shared. We welcomed a few new members. We met a young gentleman named Charlie and his Mom Noel. Charlie shared part of his collection with us. We hope they enjoyed their visit and will become members.

We hope everyone is getting prepared for their traditional Holiday Celebrations. It is still odd for me to see Christmas lights on palm trees and no snow on the ground at this time of year. I miss seeing the snow, but surely don't miss driving in it!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our December Holiday Dinner Meeting. There will not be a Program for the month of December. Although, there will be a Gift Exchange at the Dinner Meeting which Susan will explain elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Everything is moving forward for our upcoming Show in March. Please spread the word to all your family, friends, acquaintances and everyone who may enjoy attending. Be sure to take some of the advertising/discount postcards from the Clubhouse to share and promote the Show. I would like to request donations of items for the Silent Auction at the Show. We prefer rock and gem related and jewelry/jewelry making items. Please contact me to arrange drop off for donated items. Thanks in advance.

Time is running short to get your 2021/2022 dues paid. Please send them in if you haven't already done so.

Please stay safe and be well. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and wishing a prosperous, safe and Happy New Year to everyone!!! And, keep collecting those pretty rocks!

Sincerely,

Kelly Nolen

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: peecheene8@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:

Bill (William) 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: peecheene8@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 Minutes

December 4, 2021



The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Nolen. Those attending were: Susan Biel, Pat Church, Breta McGuire, Pat Davis.

The adjustment to the water bill which the city approved has not posted yet. Pat Church will follow up on that.

The Holiday Dinner is scheduled for Dec 16th at Appleby's, 511 East Bay Drive. Members are encouraged to sign up on the sheet at the clubhouse or call Joann Knoss by Dec 14, so she can give the restaurant a head-count .

There was discussion about several topics.

- Planning for the annual show.
- Photos of people involved in club activities being in the newsletter. Members need to be aware that the newsletter is posted on the club website.
- Promo items such as patches and totes with the club name and/or logo. Kelly will investigate further.

A contest to redesign the club logo. Details will be published in the newsletter.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Davis for Julia Larson

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL– END OF GRACE PERIOD APPROACHING

As you know, the new “Club Year” began in September, and with that, all members needed to renew their membership. The annual dues are \$20 for individual, and \$30 for a family of two or more persons.

We are now approaching the end of the Membership Grace Period, which ENDS ON December 31st.

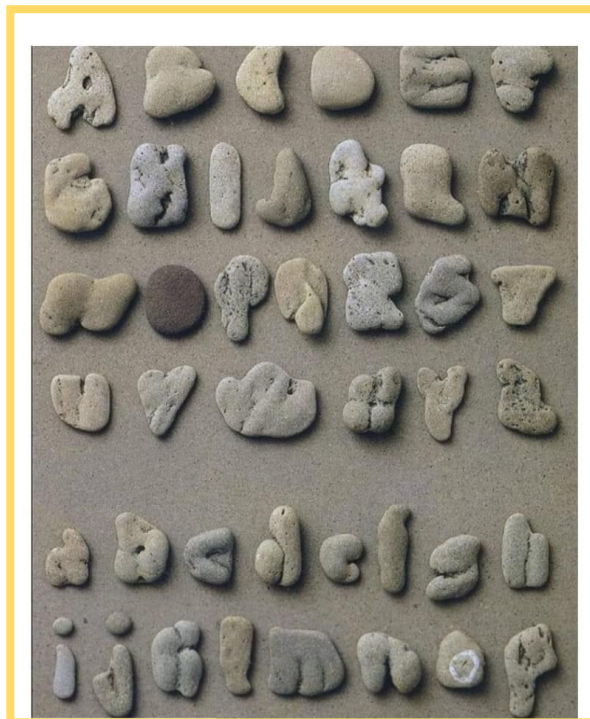
Only members in good standing (dues paid) are able to take classes, workshops or use the clubhouse. Be sure to have your membership card on you for proof. Only members receive the newsletter and emails regarding club business, news and workshop announcements.

Renewing members do not need to complete another application, but if any information has changed: email, phone, address, etc. please make note of that when sending in your dues.

Checks are to be made out to Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society or simply SGAMS and mailed to:

Donna Sapp, 3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

If you have friends or family who would like to join, a copy of the application is included in this bulletin.



THERE WILL NOT BE A DECEMBER MEETING
THERE WILL BE A DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DINNER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AT 6:00 P.M.
APPLEBEES AT 5110 EAST BAY

YOU MUST RESERVE YOUR PLACE WITH JOANN KNOSS

BY DEC 14TH

JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM

**THERE WILL BE A GIFT EXCHANGE. PLEASE SEE ARTICLE
BELOW EXPLAINING IT.**

CHRISTMAS DINNER GIFT EXCHANGE.

We all recognize that funds are kind of tight right now, so the suggestion was that a gift worth \$10 would be doable. And, as we all know, the "purchasing power" of \$10 has been greatly diminished in this last year, so an idea is that we "dig into" our hobby related stash of things we have made, or some excess we have in supplies (specimens, cabs, slabs, findings, beads, etc.) to make up a gift that would appeal to another member.

Remember the best advice in gift giving is to choose something you would like to receive! Be creative! Be festive! and let's overwhelm the gloom of the last two years with a fun and spirited Christmas Celebration!!



SGAMS LOGO RE-DESIGN CONTEST

Calling all artists – or anyone with a creative mind! We are contemplating having some logo imprinted club “swag”* for sale at our upcoming show, including embroidered patches. And in doing so, we were thinking, it’s time to update our logo’s look. And what is more fun than a little competition in doing so?

Here are the basic guidelines:

- ♦ The name must appear in ALL CAPITALS with no punctuation (i.e. no period after “ST”) but not necessarily this font – as shown below.

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

ST PETERSBURG FL

EST 1969

- ♦ The embroidered patches will be circular and 3” in diameter, but your artwork can be larger to allow for better digitizing for the embroidery machine.
- ♦ Your artwork can be hand-drawn, but to submit it, please scan it to JPG or PDF format.
- ♦ Lettering should be at least ¼” high.
- ♦ For the sake of simplicity – and cost – stick with a maximum of three colors.

Here are tips from an embroidery company website”

- ♦ Avoid small, fine lines, they don’t show up as well and are harder to stitch. Bold lettering is best.
- ♦ Contrasting colors (dark/light) are more eye-catching and a border that takes a color from the design helps to frame it and pull the design together (the border on an embroidered item is called “merrowing” and it is always 1/8” thick).

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK TO PEECHKEENE8@GMAIL.COM WITH “LOGO” IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 1, 2022.

*“swag” is “promotional products that many businesses use to promote their brand”.



PREPARING FOR OUR 2022 ANNUAL SHOW!!

Below is an electronic version of the postcard advertising our show in March. Please feel free -and motivated - to print out copies to pass around, email copies to everyone you know who might be interested and keep on doing so as much and often as possible to generate some grand excitement over our 2022 Show! There are also printed cards available at the Clubhouse—please ask about them at the Meetings!

[Hint: you can right click on the image and choose SAVE IMAGE or COPY IMAGE and place it on a blank WORD document; on an iPad you can “touch and hold” to copy it to your photo library and send it to a wireless printer. The image is roughly 7” wide and 5-1/2” long, but you can resize it on a WORD document].

Also see attachment in Nov. 8th Meeting Announcement email from peechikeene8@gmail.com (the email for club announcements and the Rock-A-Gram).



**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**
presents our

51ST ANNUAL SHOW

NEW/OLD LOCATION
Largo Event Center (formerly Minnreg Hall)
6340 126th Ave N, Largo, FL

MAR 4, 5, 6, 2022
Fri, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Slabs, Cabochons
Fossils, Beads
Door Prizes, Exhibits and More!

Free Parking **ADMISSION** **Free Parking**

Donations: \$5.00/adult good for all three days,
Children under 6 FREE, Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00
\$1.00 off admission with this ad. Limit one per person.
Refreshments available

Fun stuff

I'm so hungry, I could eat a...

Photos of rocks and minerals that look like food, from boredpanda.com



This is some tooth-cracking
"chocolate!"



At least it's seedless
"watermelon".



Oh my, this "key lime pie"!



This "Southern fried chicken" and "potato" would be one heavy
meal!



Even a dollop of whipped cream on
top wouldn't make this "strawberry
cheesecake" any easier to eat.

And the main course: This
"Cheeseburger with the works
and a side of fries"

Go ahead and dig into that!



OUR YOUNG GEOLOGIST

In October, when we met for our first “in person” Board Meeting at the Clubhouse, Pat Church had just gone through the mail and when we got to the “New Business” portion she raised her hand to say, “listen to this” and read us the following letter:

“Dear Geologist:

My name is Charlie and I am nine years old. I am learning about geology in my 4-H club. I am in love with geology, but my parents know nothing. Is there someone in your club who can help me? My schedule is pretty open because I am homeschooled. You can call my mom...to discuss”

Well, you know that we were all immediately smitten with a nine year old who is in love with Geology! President Kelly Nolen contacted Charlie’s mom, Noel and invited them to our November General Meeting at the Clubhouse.

Charlie really held his own in a room full of older, chatty “geologists” and when it came time for him to speak, he was so very confident and did not appear at all nervous— in fact his enthusiasm shone through, being able to connect with people of like mind no matter our ages or backgrounds!

He showed us all his favorite two specimens, which were amethysts, and we were all bowled over when he hoisted up a obviously heavy collection box and stated that it held 250 specimens—and he had another one that size at home! We all agreed that Charlie was off to a good start!

We were again thrilled to learn that Charlie and his Mom joined SGAMS and plan to be at our Christmas Party later this week. Please everyone, take a moment to welcome ALL our new members, but especially this enthusiast young one!

It is our sincere hope that we can attract many more young geologists like Charlie to our club.



Please share this story with any youngsters you know, and help encourage some other budding geologists out there to join Charlie SGAM members!

And, I would like to give praise to Charlie’s mother Noel for raising, and what surely appears to be providing excellent homeschooling to a very special, sociable and intelligent young man!

- Susan Biel, Editor RAG



as

SMILE with



A GREAT WAY TO SHOP AND HELP SGAMS AT THE SAME TIME!!

ARE YOU AN AMAZON PRIME MEMBER? DO YOU SHOP OFTEN USING AMAZON.COM?

SGAMS is an approved non-profit organization for Amazon Smile!

That means that when you place an order on Amazon the club gets a small percentage of your purchase price. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice....SGAMS!

Start your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You can even start shopping in the regular Amazon website, then sign into smile. Amazon.com and it will pick up right where you were!

FAQS:

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select SGAMS to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

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.

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 9 FOR CLASS SCHEDULING AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE INSTRUCTORS.

ITEM FOR SALE: 14" DIAMOND BLADE ROCK SAW. ASKING \$300 PLEASE CONTACT DON ROBERTS, CELL PHONE (727) 385-8412, OR FLMETALMAN@YAHOO.COM



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

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

Pinellas Geological Society: www.pgs.rocks

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