

Dear SGAMS Members,

Here we are already, at the end of 2022!

It is looking like we will have a great turn out for our Holiday Dinner at Panera's in Bardmoor Plaza on the 15th! **Reservations are for 7:00 p.m.** I am sure that Joann Knoss will delight us with her lovely decorations to add to the festivities!

This last Board Meeting was very uplifting and fruitful for me, as members stepped up to volunteer to handle tasks! See more on this in the following pages.

And our Grab Bag Assembly day was a huge success, with a record turnout of helpers! Please let's run with this enthusiasm when we have our Gem Mining, Silent Auction and Club Table ~~work-days~~ FUN-DAYS scheduled after the Holidays!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or Kwanzaa and a promising, bright and Happiest of New Years in 2023!

Best regards,

*Susan Biel*

Susan Biel

President, SGAMS

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**MANY THANKS TO****GUEST SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER 17TH MEETING, MICHAEL KULAS****WHO GAVE US A PRESENTATION ON****PETOSKEY STONES.**

Map courtesy of City-Data website

**January's Program will be a presentation by members  
on their trip to Texas ~ alternate Program is Lapidary Bingo!**

**We have re-instated the Raffle at the General Meeting!****For the January 19th Meeting****Members whose Last Names Begin with****"G" through "K"****Please bring in a donation to the Raffle Prizes****(a specimen, cabochons, slab, small piece of jewelry, etc. )****Tickets are two for \$1.00**

## Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2022-23

TITLE	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
PRESIDENT	SUSAN BIEL	<a href="mailto:PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM">PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM</a>	(315) 380-7037
VICE PRESIDENT	KAREN KULAS		
RECORDING SECRETARY	JULIA LARSON		
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	PAT DAVIS	<a href="mailto:PATD.SGAMS@GMAIL.COM">PATD.SGAMS@GMAIL.COM</a>	(727) 323-2147
TREASURER	PATRICIA CHURCH	<a href="mailto:PACHURCH@GMAIL.COM">PACHURCH@GMAIL.COM</a>	
3 YEAR DIRECTOR	DEBBIE HAMILTON		
2 YEAR DIRECTOR	SHAMUS WALKER		
1 YEAR DIRECTOR	RETA MCGUIRE		
1 YEAR DIRECTOR	KELLY NOLEN		

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS:

ANNUAL SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIR: BILL SCHMIDT	<a href="mailto:SGAMSGEMSHOW@GMAIL.COM">SGAMSGEMSHOW@GMAIL.COM</a>	
ANNUAL SHOW VENDOR CHAIR: BRETA MCGUIRE	<a href="mailto:SGAMSDEALERCHAIR@GMAIL.COM">SGAMSDEALERCHAIR@GMAIL.COM</a>	(727) 344-9676
HOLIDAY & ANNUAL DINNER CHAIR: JOANN KNOSS	<a href="mailto:JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM">JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM</a>	(727) 238-8345
BUILDING/EQUIPMENT:	BILL SCHMIDT	
EDUCATION COMMITTEE:	TBD	
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:	KAREN KULAS	KAREN.KULAS@GMAIL.COM PACHURCH@GMAIL.COM
PROGRAM COMMITTEE:	KAREN KULAS	KAREN.KULAS@GMAIL.COM
ROCK-A-GRAM EDITOR:	SUSAN BIEL	<a href="mailto:PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM">PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM</a> (315) 380-7037
WEBMASTER:	DEBRA BREMER	<a href="mailto:BREMERSLAPIDARY@YAHOO.COM">BREMERSLAPIDARY@YAHOO.COM</a> (727) 534-0590

Please note that our new Membership Committee is comprised of Pat Church, Treasurer, who will be receiving the Applications and Payments (see new application following) and she will forward the Applications to Karen Kulas who will handle the Roster and Membership Cards. We gratefully thank Donna Sapp for her many years dedicated to this job.



## SUNCOAST GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 1, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 715 pm. Board members present were Susan Biel, Pat Church, Breta McGuire, Kelly Nolen, Karen Kulas and Julia Larson. Also present was Bill Schmidt, show chair.

Show: Grab bags will be assembled December 10. Corresponding secretary Pat Davis sent an email to all members regarding this. Bill printed labels for the postcards and Pat Church volunteered to put the labels on the cards and mail them. There was discussion regarding Mark Burton's table. He will have a table as part of the club sale section and in lieu of charging a table fee, he will be asked to donate a percentage of his sales to the club.

Equipment issues: Bill reported the bearings on the saw need to be replaced before it can be used. He will check with someone he knows to see if they can be fabricated. There was some question about duplication of effort and Susan reminded everyone using the shop to use the whiteboard to record problems and actions. The Facetron issue is still unresolved. Susan will contact Mr. Jarvi and ask him to return the part if it is not repaired. She mentioned someone who lives locally who does his own Facetron calibration and who may be able to assist with ours.

Membership: Anyone whose dues were not paid by November 30 has been dropped from the roster; however, the new roster apparently deleted some members who actually have paid their dues. Susan will address this with the membership chair. Karen volunteered to assist with keeping track of this on an Excel spreadsheet.

January program: Four members (Pat Davis, Sue Hazelden, Pat Church and Breta McGuire) recently returned from a rockhounding trip to west Texas. If they are able to organize their many photos, they will present the January program. If not, Karen has created a lapidary bingo game.

Old business: Susan has the new donation form. There was discussion regarding when and how to accept donations. It was suggested that they be accepted at meetings or by prior arrangement with the member in charge of recording them. Julia volunteered to do this. Susan will post a notice in the newsletter. Canvas bags: No firm decision has been made on the wording for the bags. Kelly will bring them to the next show meeting. There will be a contest for the wording; whomever submits the winning slogan will receive a free bag. Raffle: It was suggested that people donate items for the raffle by alpha group, i.e., A-L, M-Z. Susan will announce this in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 812 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary



**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC,**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 703 pm. The minutes of the October meetings were accepted as published. The treasurer was out of town so an abbreviated report was given by President Susan Biel and the formal report was filed for audit.

JoAnn Knoss reported on the December dinner meeting which will be at Panera in Largo. Sign-up sheets were available.

Donations: Susan has been working on a new form for recording donations.

Show: The postcards arrived and members were encouraged to take a packet of them to places where they have other meetings and groups.

A raffle was held following the 725 pm adjournment.

Mike and Karen Kulas presented a slide show on Petosky stones.

Julia Larson

Recording Secretary

## REGARDING DONATIONS:

At the December Board Meeting, Julia Larson volunteered to be our Donations Coordinator. Here is the information and the following page is the Donation Form should you wish to print one out in advance.

Lucky us, that the club has been practically overwhelmed with generous donations from our members and others who have heard about SGAMS and want to donate such things as Great -Uncle Alvin's rock collection or Grandma Sadie's costume jewelry! Unfortunately, items sometimes make it into the clubhouse without explanation, often leaving us with unanswered questions when it comes to determining what the items are and their estimated value. To address this, we are instituting a procedure to help us keep track of donated items.

Donors are encouraged to bring items to the clubhouse at Board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September-May), or to the Membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September-May).

Julia Larson has volunteered to be the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. During the summer hiatus, June 1-August 31, or at any time, donors can make arrangements to meet Julia at the clubhouse by emailing, texting, or calling her. Contact information is [jmlsgams22@gmail.com](mailto:jmlsgams22@gmail.com), or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave name and number for her to return the call. Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.

For your convenience, you may complete the donation form (elsewhere in this publication) and bring it with your donation.

And a big THANK YOU to everyone for your generosity and support of our club.

Julia Larson & Susan Biel

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.

#	Description	Valued @
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$

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 \_\_\_\_\_ or 12/1/2022



**BIG DISCOVERY 🦷:** What started out as a day to find smaller handheld fossils to share with students interested in prehistoric life, ended with a bigger discovery than two science teachers imagined.

Rick Cochran and Henry Sadler, science teachers at Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg, were sourcing fossils along the greater Peace River area when they noticed what looked like the mandible of a mastodon.

Thanks to Breta McGuire for sending me this article!

Read more about it here:

<https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/local/st-petersburg-teachers-discover-mastodon-jaw-tusks/67-6c1d1elf-3b4e-45e2-b3ac-e0058f756f99>



wtsp.com

**St. Pete teachers discover mastodon jaw, tusks in local waters**

STARTING WITH THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 19TH:

## Member Show and Tell

Member Dave Watson gave me this wonderful idea—that each meeting Members should bring in something they have just created or found, to Show and Tell us all about it! As Dave said, this is how we get ideas, inspiration and also a great opportunity to strut our stuff!

Each meeting, after the Business Portion and before the Raffle and Program, we encourage members to take turns showing (passing around if possible) their creations, a favorite specimen found or procured, with a little explanation on the background. Items too delicate to pass around can be displayed on one of the tables for members to view or photos can be cast on the television (if it cooperates!).

**DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS  
DINNER!**

**CONTACT JOANN KNOSS AT [JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM)**

**BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT THE LATEST!!**

**DINNER WILL BE HELD AT**

**PANERA'S AT BARDMOOR PLAZA**

**10801 STARKEY RD, LARGO (AT BRYAN DAIRY RD)**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH @ 7:00 p.m.**

There is a voluntary gift exchange: if you wish to participate: bring a wrapped gift that is in keeping with our club focus: rocks, specimens, cabs, slabs, jewelry, jewelry making supplies, etc. etc. The value is to be around \$12 or so. When you get to the restaurant there will be a little tree to put the present under and a numbered slip to pick up. The number will be called and you will select whatever gift you wish that is under the tree.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH Y' ALL!!**

**ANNOUNCING:****A CONTEST!!**

Some cotton canvas bags were purchased as an add-on item to sell at our Annual Show.

After wrangling with several sayings, the Committee decided that we should hold a CONTEST!

Not only will the winner get to see their saying in print, they will receive one of the imprinted bags as a prize! \*

**SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS TO: [PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM) BY JANUARY 5TH.** You may enter more than one submission.

Some guidelines:

1. Try to keep it short and sweet, which will keep the printing costs more reasonable.
2. We will consider **original** art work, but only if the cost to print is within reason.
3. Original material only—please don't use copyrighted sayings or images (do a Google search to see if someone already "beat you to it")

The entries will be submitted to the Show Committee for a blind vote (entries will be listed on a sheet and the Committee will number their choices 10 - 1; the saying with the highest total score will win). The winner will be announced in the January Rock-A-Gram and the bag awarded at the January 19th Meeting, printing turnaround time permitting.

\*this is a stock image of a bag and not the actual item.


THE 2023 ANNUAL SHOW  
AD AND MEDIA POST CARD

Here is our advertising post card—please download a copy and post to:  
Facebook ~ Instagram ~ Twitter ~ Snapchat ~ TikTok ~ Pinterest ~ Quaro  
~ Periscope ~ Vimeo ~ Tumblr ~ Reddit ~ NEXTDOOR ~ YOUNAMEIT!

Your school/church/synagogue/ashram/dojo's website!

EVERYWHERE!

Print Copies will be available by mid month and handed out at the  
Christmas Party. Bring them to your local library, Senior Center, Day  
Care, Doggie Day Care, favorite coffee shop, café or bar and lounge!

The poster features a black background with several large, irregularly shaped, light-colored rocks with dark inclusions scattered around the text. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, serif, and script fonts.

**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society**  
**52ND ANNUAL SHOW**

*Largo Event Center (formerly Minnreg Hall)*  
**6340 126th Ave N, Largo, FL**  
**MAR 3, 4, 5, 2023**

Fri, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 10am–5pm  
Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Slabs, Cabochons,  
Fossils, Beads, Door Prizes, Exhibits and More!

COME SEE THE NEWLY  
DISCOVERED LAPIDARY  
STONE

Free Parking Food Service On Site

*Markonite*  
ADMISSION

Donations: \$6.00/Adult 3 day pass  
Children under 6 FREE, Students with parents or I.D. Card \$5.00  
\$1.00 off admission with this ad. Limit one per person.



### GEM MINING BAGS ASSEMBLY DAY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Many thanks to Linda Taylor for organizing this event (and thanks to husband Otis for the help with the onerous task of separating the labels!). There was an amazing turn out of 15 folk to work on the assembly of the bags—184 bags were completed!! Many thanks to:

Sue Hazelden, Breta McGuire, Irene & Steve Muench, Mike & Karen Kulas, Pat Davis, Nancy Hamisak, Fred Perrone, Barbara Klutho and brand new member, Tina Lakhotia!



**WAIT? YOU DIDN'T GET IN ON THE FUN WE HAD WITH THE GRAB BAGS?**

Well, no worries, there is more fun to be had coming up in January. We will be holding a Gem Mining Bag Assembly Day, and several days for Silent Auction and Club Table Preparations! So keep your weekends open and ready to get in on the action! Keep an eye on this newsletter and email blasts for more information.



## 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.

**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](http://www.amlands.org)

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies [www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org)

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)

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

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

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

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

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**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.

**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](mailto: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