

February 2023

Volume 767 No. 1 Page 1

Happy February SGAMS Members!

We are full steam ahead on the Annual Show Preparations! Many, many thanks to all of you have been showing up to perform whatever task is at hand. I recognize some days have been fits and starts as we try to reconstruct what needs to be done, and rest assured that some SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) are being written up and archived with as many tasks and procedures noted so NEXT year we have the steps to follow all spelled out.

Also many thanks to those donating items for the Show— it is all greatly appreciated!

Please keep an eye out for an email from Pat Davis with SIGN UP in the subject line— she found us a great online version of the “sheets on a clipboard” so that getting all the spots covered throughout the show can be accomplished without duplications or missed spots. No worries, I am told that it is very easy to understand and do!

This next meeting is the ANNUAL IN-HOUSE AUCTION! See page 6 for details on this and MANY thanks to Sue Hazelden for being our Auctioneer! And many thanks to Vice President Karen Kulas for presiding at this meeting in my absence.

Best regards,

Susan Biel

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Show sign up time!!

This year, instead of sheets of paper on a clipboard at the clubhouse (which isn't open for access all that often),

Pat Davis found this great and EASY ONLINE method for us all to

Sign up for positions at the SHOW!

It prevents duplications and it gives you the information for your own records

(so you know when you are assigned to do what and when!)

Look for PAT D.—Sgams **emails** and **SIGNUPS** in the subject line!

Pat D - SGAMS

Signups - Your invitation to view the sign ups

(and remember, it is very important that we have a good bunch of folks to do the load up and break down at the beginning and end of the show too!)

Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2022-23

TITLE	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
PRESIDENT	SUSAN BIEL	PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM	(315) 380-7037
VICE PRESIDENT	KAREN KULAS		
RECORDING SECRETARY	JULIA LARSON		
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	PAT DAVIS	PATD.SGAMS@GMAIL.COM	(727) 323-2147
TREASURER	PATRICIA CHURCH	PACHURCH@GMAIL.COM	
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	SGAMSGEMSHOW@GMAIL.COM	
ANNUAL SHOW VENDOR CHAIR: BRETA MCGUIRE	SGAMSDEALERCHAIR@GMAIL.COM	(727) 344-9676
HOLIDAY & ANNUAL DINNER CHAIR: JOANN KNOSS	JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM	(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	PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM (315) 380-7037
WEBMASTER:	DEBRA BREMER	BREMERSLAPIDARY@YAHOO.COM (727) 534-0590

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2023



The meeting was called to order at 715 pm by President Susan Biel. Board members attending were Kelly Nolen, Breta McGuire, Pat Davis, Pat Church, Karen Kulas, Julia Larson, and Debbie Hamilton (by phone from Tucson AZ).

Show preparation and status: Tagging of items for the silent auction is nearly complete; half of the Gem Mining bags are done, an additional 75 are needed; items for the club table are being sorted, cleaned and boxed, but still need identification and pricing; we are still looking for a volunteer to handle Facebook postings; sign-up sheets for show duties have been moved to a digital platform by Pat Davis. This is a change from the previous hand-written sheets - it will be online sign-up only. Susan scheduled several work days for the remaining activities.

The program for the February general meeting will be the annual auction, our big fund raiser. Sue Hazelden will be the auctioneer. Use of the Square system for payment was discussed. The board decided to use this for the show and agreed to purchase four of the updated boxes which accept chip cards and are more secure. The club auction will accept cash or check only.

The repaired Facetron head has still not been received. Susan remains in contact with the Jarvi representative regarding this.

Old business: We need three estimates on printing for the canvas bags for the show. A slogan has been agreed upon.

New business: Pat Church stated we need to purchase a scale for the show and also for use at the clubhouse. Harbor Freight has some that could be purchased, and this was authorized.

The meeting was adjourned at 810 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Privacy Policy: SGAMS will never sell, trade nor share your personal information received here in any manner and will always protect it and your privacy. Occasionally you will be emailed well vetted offers, publications, or bulletins of interest and in relation to our club, this hobby and similar activities. No officer or member of this club will ever email or text you for money or gift cards, etc., and any such correspondence you receive you should not open, or answer, but report as spam and contact SGAMS with your concerns.

HANDLING 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.

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, 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.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING FEB. 16TH IS OUR ANNUAL IN-HOUSE AUCTION!!



BE PREPARED! -

Bring items to donate to the auction and arrive by 6:30 p.m. so that they can be checked in and the general meeting can start on time.

CASH OR CHECK ONLY—Please! Be ready with folding money or a check!

Early Cash Out is being discouraged—as it interrupts the flow of the Auction. An hour has been set aside for this auction. Please wait.

Have fun! Bid often! Get excited and get some really great deals!

**MANY THANKS TO SUE HAZELDEN, BRETA MCGUIRE, JULIA LARSON
AND PAT CHURCH FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE WITH THIS AUCTION!**

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

Mr/Mrs/Ms

YOUR NAME (PRINTED)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

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

Oh, the colors!!

RECENTLY I attended an online seminar to refresh my moldering watercolor painting skills. It was a great, inspiring and intense three days, although I am not certain about any improvement of my skills (and certainly not an infusion of talent) but there is one interesting take away that dovetails with this, my other hobby, the love of all things to do with rocks, gems and minerals.

As the Artists performed their demonstrations they would note the paint colors that they were using – and if participants noticed some particularly dazzling new color, questions would fly down the “Chat” column of the Zoom presentation. What caught a great deal of interest were the Primatek line of paints from Daniel Smith, a company out of Seattle, Washington.

Daniel Smith has been in operation since 1976 and produce a very high quality, vibrant. The Primatek colors were actually launched back in 1994. There are 36 “Mineral Marvels” and the colors range from Amazonite, Fuchsite, Lapis Lazuli to Rhodonite, Serpentine and Zoisite!.

The Serpentine is most lovely, made from mine tailings from Australia! Diopside Genuine is an intensely gorgeous green derived from the Russian emerald and the Apatite color sampling show the way the brown pigment settles out, creating an earthy, textured color. A reddish brown color “Minnesota Pipestone” is created to be the same shade of the stone that Plains Indians “revered and reserved for the making of their pipes”; Mayan Blue is formulated to mimic the very intense and enduring color found in the ancient temples that miraculously resists fading.

I sent away for a set of “dots” – little blobs of the colors on a card, so that I can play with them before considering purchasing a tube, and for fun and to demonstrate the colors, I painted the fish below.

The colors, the entertainingly descriptions and background - plus lots of other interesting stuff - can be found on the Daniel Smith website: <https://danielsmith.com/product/daniel-smith-primatek-watercolors/>

And yes, I am definitely going to order some of these fascinatingly different paints!



The following is a list of websites where our Show is being advertised—for free or for a very small fee. So as a “thank you” to them for our “*shamesless commerce*” please consider using these websites to search for local and national events and festivities.

CREATIVELOAFING.COM

ROCKNGEM.COM

XPROGRESS.COM

ROCKANDMINERALSHOWS.COM

THE-VUG.COM

MINDAT.ORG (beyond listing Gem Shows, this website is an amazing wealth of information on rocks and minerals)

10TIMES.COM

MYCENTRALFLORIDAFAMILY.COM

VISITSTPETECLEARWATER.COM

FLEVENTSANDFESTIVALS.COM

GEOLOGYIN.COM (this website only seems to “work” for me using Mozilla/Firefox web browser)

727area.com

PLEASE CONSIDER ENTERING A DISPLAY AT THE ANNUAL SHOW!

The club has many of these wooden display cases (and some liners for the interior*) and this is a great highlight of our hobby and very educational for the attendees! (And us too! I am always amazed by the talent of our members!) Please consider showing off a collection, or explaining a method of lapidary that you know (silversmithing, cabbing, wire-wrapping, etc)

Here are displays from past shows. If you are interested, time is running out, but do contact me or Pat Davis for information on how this works!



*liners may need to be cleaned or repaired so check into this really soon!



ANNOUNCING:



**The Winner
Of the Tote Bag
Slogan Contest:
Julia Larson!**

**Julia's last minute
inspiration gave every
one a good laugh when
blurted it out at the meeting!
Way to go Julia!**

There are 40 of these canvas bags and they will have this slogan silk-screened on the front of them and be available for sale at the Annual Show. (pricing to be determined once the silk-screen job is completed).

A BEAUTIFUL ARTICLE ON ROCKSEEKER.COM -

I don't want to spoil the article by posting the photo!

The World's Most Famous Agate—<https://www.rockseeker.com/apache-hooded-owl-agate/>

I have to admit to never having heard of it! But do go to this article, it is quite stunning!

Other Articles of Interest:

Lapidary Trim Saws vs. Slab Saws—What is the Difference? <https://www.rockseeker.com/lapidary-trim-saws-vs-slab-saws/>

Dissolving Rocks to Expose Crystals: <https://www.rockseeker.com/dissolving-rocks-to-expose-crystals/>


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 are available at the Clubhouse in a box on the green cubbies.

Bring them to your local library, Senior Center, Day Care, Doggie Day Care, favorite coffee shop, salon, barber 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 sans-serif fonts. The title is in large, bold, serif font. The location and dates are in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The list of items is in a medium-sized, bold, sans-serif font. The phrase 'COME SEE THE NEWLY DISCOVERED LAPIDARY STONE' is in a medium-sized, bold, sans-serif font. The name 'Markonite' is in a large, stylized, cursive font. The admission information is in a medium-sized, bold, sans-serif font. The donation information is in a medium-sized, bold, sans-serif font. The phrase 'COME SEE THE NEWLY DISCOVERED LAPIDARY STONE' is in a medium-sized, bold, sans-serif font. The phrase 'COME SEE THE NEWLY DISCOVERED LAPIDARY STONE' is in a medium-sized, bold, sans-serif font.

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.



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

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. .

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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.

INTRODUCING: A PAGE WHERE OUR MEMBERS CAN POST THEIR WARES FOR SALE, FREE OF CHARGE. TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE SEND ME WORD DOCUMENT WITH A TEXT BOX SUCH AS THESE ADS BELOW. I WILL ONLY DO MINIMAL MANIPULATION TO MAKE YOUR AD ACCEPTABLE TO PUBLISH (THAT IS: YOU DO THE WORK TO MAKE THE AD COPY, I'LL PUBLISH IT HERE).

~ PEECHKEENE8@GMAIL.COM

JAY'S TREASURES

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TARPON SPRINGS, FL
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to create Rings, Earrings, Bracelets, Necklaces,
Chain Maille, Pendants, Charms and Keyrings.

Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

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

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. If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the Rock-A-Gram, please email it to peechiene8@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