



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone had a happy and safe New Year's.

Over the last year our club members have been working very hard around the clubhouse making repairs to the club house improving workshops and keeping up on the required maintenance of the equipment. Many thanks to those responsible for these efforts.

The club needs everyone's support. Support the club by attending both general and board meetings, help out on a committee. **The club needs new members to serve on the board of directors.** With new board members come new ideas. If you have not served as member of the board please consider it. The club will be having its yearly auction at the general meeting on the 16th and there will be loads of fine faceted gems up for grabs. This year the club will accept cash, checks and credit cards.

Big club show in March. If you haven't signed up to help in this year's show, there's still time. Volunteers are needed in all areas: ticket sales, information desk, club booth, silent auction, hospitality, and of course set up and break down.

Joe Cooper, President

GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY JANUARY 16 7 PM

ANNUAL AUCTION – help the club with this major fund raiser by donating exciting, quality, and tempting items that will entice your fellow club members into a bidding frenzy! [Some non-gem & mineral related items will be considered]. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.

Board Members and Appointed Positions

Joe Cooper, President 317-775-5476

Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Susan Biel, Vice President

315-380-7037 Email:

Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

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Gerri Groves, Recording

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727-656-0322

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Dan Stefanski, Corresponding Secretary ..

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Dave Watson, Director .. 727-541-2917

Richard Buton, Director 570-592-6562

Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Sandy Theisz, Director 727-686-1209

Email: Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Bill (William) Schmidt, Facilities.. 727-657-0998

Email: SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com

Donna Sapp, Membership. 727-420-0383

Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com

Debbie Bremer, Webmaster..... 727-298-0061

Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com

Bill (William) Schmidt, Show Chair.. 727-657-0998

Email: SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com

Sandy Theisz, Dealer Chair.

727-686-1209

Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

JoAnn Knoss, Dinner Committee.. 727-914-4569

Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

HELP WANTED!

Do you know your way around Facebook?

SGAMS is looking for a computer-savvy member to handle our presence on Facebook. Contact Pat Davis at shasta73@gmail.com to discuss.

Show News

Let's not forget about display cases! We have 6-8 available for you to show off your work in a themed narrative. This is one of our highlights - involving visitors by: educating them about minerals, gems & the lapidary arts - that they *too* can learn to create such beautiful things. Obviously, next we mention that SGAMS is just *the* place to do it. At the next general meeting there will be one set up in the main room for you to size up. We have colored fabric liners and platforms to help stage your work. The setup and breakdown volunteers will assemble/disassemble the empty cases. From here it is up to you to let your creativity blossom too fill the blank canvas.

The show fliers are at the Clubhouse, come and get them! I need your help to spread the word of our Show. Think about the groups and organizations that you're involved with and how you can get our Show information to those friends? See if you can get a flier or a written notice of ours distributed in newsletters, bulletins, posted on notice boards, make a personal announcement, or anything else you can think of. I have electronic copies of the different sized fliers and also pre-written notices for you. Just call or e-mail with your requests. Our website has the full-color, full sheet flier for you to copy and print or attach to e-mails. We are on Facebook and if you have not "Like" us yet, search for us and hit that button!

The signup sheets for the Show are in the Clubhouse Main Room and as of this writing we are only ½ full. Some just have one person and a second is needed. Check the sheets over and step in where you can. For the Silent Auction we will need three people for each shift to keep the pace up.

On Saturday Jan. 18th we need help to assemble grab bags. This is a great time to learn some rocks and minerals as there will be many pieces of the same type to reinforce their similarities. We'll be going through bins of material, breaking up large pieces, bagging them with a printed label and filling the bags. We'll meet 9 am at the Clubhouse. Oh, and we will fill the new display board with examples of what is in the bags.

The next Show committee meeting will be back on schedule at 7 pm, Thursday Jan, 24th.

Thanks, Bill Schmidt, Show Chair

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DECEMBER 05, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Cooper at 7:05 p. m. Board members in attendance were President Joe Cooper, Vice President Susan Biel, Gerri Groves, Dave Watson, Rick Bunton, Pat Davis Eric Odegaard, and Dan Stefanski. Also in attendance was Julia Larson.

Secretary's report - a motion by Susan Biel seconded by Dan Stefanski to approve as printed was approved.

Treasurer's report Eric Odegaard presented the treasurer's report. Motion by Susan Biel seconded by Dan Stefanski to accept and file for audit was approved.

Equipment- Bill Schmidt would like to replace the trim saw out in the shop. A motion by Joe Cooper to purchase a new 7" trim saw from Kingsley North for around \$800.00, and also to sell the current one. Motion approved. A motion was made by Dan Stefanski, to allow Eric Odegaard to purchase a new trim saw and adjust the budget accordingly. Motion carried.

Nominating committee for the new year is Pat Davis and Rick Bunton. Several positions are open and we need people to fill them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Gerri Groves Recording Secretary

CHRISTMAS MEETING DECEMBER 19, 2019

In place of the general meeting at the clubhouse, members gathered at Po' Folks restaurant for an evening of fun and food.

BABY, IT'S COLD...INSIDE!

If you haven't noticed, the clubhouse air conditioning system has undergone a huge improvement, **thanks to Joe Cooper, Bill Schmidt and Dave Watson** – and **new materials donated by Joe Pierce**. There is a new return grille with a proper filter, the transition duct has been replaced and sealed, the baseboard in the AC closet was foamed, there are new adhesive and fiberglass tapes, and all the holes (including the rat holes!) have been plugged. You may not fully appreciate this work until it's 90 degrees outside, but you WILL feel the difference!

Thanks, guys!

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

49TH ANNUAL

GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW AND SALE

MARCH 6, 7 & 8TH 2020

FRIDAY – 1 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

SATURDAY – 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY – 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

*****NEW LOCATION***BANQUET MASTERS**

13355 49TH ST. N.

CLEARWATER, FL

WIRE WRAPPING, SILENT AUCTION

CABOCHON & GEM CUTTING

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

DIAMONDS, EMERALDS, RUBIES, BEADS

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\$1.00 OFF ADULT ADMISSION WITH THIS AD; LIMIT 1 PER PERSON

Why Sterling Silver Turns Black or Green on Your Skin

Has your Sterling Silver ring become tarnished? Is the tarnished ring leaving a black or green mark on your finger? Here are some possible explanations, and some steps you can take to remedy the situation.

What causes the discoloration?

With time, any sterling silver jewelry piece that is exposed to air will tarnish. Sterling silver is a mixture of metals with at least 92.5% silver and 7.5% other metals. And it is the other metals, usually copper, that oxidizes in the air resulting in the buildup of a tarnished layer on sterling silver jewelry.

Silver tarnishes faster in areas with high humidity and air pollution. Additionally, contact with materials like cosmetics, hairspray, perfume, deodorant, body lotion, bleach, etc., can speed up the tarnishing process. The silver in your ring may also become oxidized by reacting with acids in your skin, the moisture in perspiration, or by reacting with some other lotion or chemical on your skin. Below are some common culprits:

1. Cosmetics

Make-up present on the skin or clothing is the most common cause of blackening or smudging. Cosmetics often contain chemical compounds which are harder than the jewelry itself. These compounds can rub off very tiny particles of metal which appear as jet black dust.

Solution: Use a silver cloth to polish your jewelry. Remember to remove rings & jewelry while applying make-up. Using soap & water, clean the areas of your skin that will come into contact with the jewelry making sure all soap is rinsed off and your hands are dry

2. Moisture & Humidity

Moisture in the air or on the skin can react with the copper present in all Sterling Silver jewelry, causing a green discoloration and tarnish to develop. This is a fairly common complaint in hot, humid climates and can also affect individuals with particularly moist skin.

Solution: Using a silver cloth, polish your jewelry frequently. You might also use an absorbent powder on those moist skin areas which come into contact with your jewelry. **Keep your silver jewelry out of the bathroom and shower area. Leave your silver jewelry at home when you go to the gym or spa.**

3. Contact with Sulphur Compounds

Sulphur compounds can also cause Sterling Silver to tarnish. Avoid wearing your jewelry in heavily polluted environments. Also be careful when handling coal or oil, and when preparing foods containing sulphur, such as eggs, onions, fish or shellfish.

My skin is red & burning. Am I allergic to Sterling Silver?

Soaps, detergents and other cleaning agents can build up under a ring or bracelet causing a type of dermatitis. You should remove all jewelry before using soap or detergent. Medications in the wearer's system, especially certain antibiotics, can also cause jewelry to blacken or discolor.

If none of the explanations above are ringing any bells for you, you may consider the possibility that you are in fact "allergic" to sterling silver. In some rare cases, the wearer's basic body chemistry reacts to the alloys in both gold and silver and cause tarnishing.

Prevention is better than cure!

As with most things in life it is better to prevent a problem rather than trying to fix it! Below are a few simple tips on how to help prevent tarnishing on your silver jewelry:

1. Keep it clean

After wearing your sterling silver jewelry, clean it with a dry soft cloth, or polishing cloth, before storing it away.

2. Keep it safe

Store your clean dry sterling silver jewelry in a dry airtight container. Small Ziploc bags or Tupperware work well. It is better to store pieces individually if possible, decreasing the risk pieces scratching off each other. If you will be storing a piece for a significant period of time, adding an anti-tarnish strip with the silver jewelry in a Ziploc bag or airtight container can slow down the process even further. And of course, take off your silver jewelry before getting in the shower, swimming pool, hot tub and washing dishes.

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

<http://www.rockngem.com/> <http://www.jewelryshowguide.net/>

Other Web Sites:

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: www.tampabayrockclub.com

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County: www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

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

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Clubhouse Class Schedules

CABBING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

TBD

Wednesdays, 12 to 4pm

Larry Murry 727-686-1314

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*

Contact Instructors, if interested in following classes:

FUSED GLASS: Julia Larson (727) 410-3781 glassgal0947@gmail.com

GEM TREES: Jerri Heer (419) 344-9999 or jheerx6@aol.com

WAX CASTING: Joe Cooper (317) 775-5476, sgams2020@gmail.com

Cost for classes (except Faceting and Wax Casting) is \$3.00 per hour, or any portion thereof, plus any additional supplies.

*Please contact instructor to set up start date and schedule. Each class has minimum number of students needed to start a class.

Upcoming Shows:

January 10, 11, 12, 2020
 Pinellas Geological Society, Inc.
 Largo Cultural
 Center, Largo, FL www.PGS.Rocks

February 22, 2020
 Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
 Lakeland, FL

February 22-23, 2020
 Jackson MS
 Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society
Www.missgems.org

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

www.AMFED.org, AFMS

2019-20 Regional Federation

Shows and Conventions

California Federation

CA, HI, NV Date TBD Lodi,

Rocky Mountain Federation

Big Piney, WY June 25-28, 202

Eastern Federation

March, 2020

Monroe, NY

South Central Federation

TBD

AR, LA, TX

Midwest Federation

TBA

Southeast Federation

TBA

Northwest Federation

TBA

ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. P.O. Box 13254, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-3254

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

Feel free to copy any material from this bulletin, but please list all byline credits

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Clubhouse Activities September - May

Board Meeting:
(September - May)
First Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

General Meeting:
(September - May) Third
Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Activities Year Round

Cab Room:
Clubhouse Open:

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
And
Wednesdays 12:00- 4:00
p.m.

Clubhouse Activities Year Round

Silver Room:
Clubhouse Open:

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
And
Saturdays 1:00- 5:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Activities Year Round

Faceting:
By Appointment:
Tuesdays, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.,
Lost Wax Casting:
By Appointment:
Friday pm and Saturday