



May 2020

Volume 53, No. 1 Page 1

## PLEASE READ THIS ISSUE THOROUGHLY, TO LEARN OF NEW PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

### President's Message:

It's the first of May. This is the time we normally think of the end of the year club dinner and installing new board members. However, under current circumstances these things are not practical. **So, the club dinner for this year has been canceled and installation of new members has to be postponed.**

We did attempt a board meeting using SKYPE and that kind of worked but not as well as we would have liked. We plan to attempt again using ZOOM to see if we can make that work better. We are struggling to find possible ways to open the club in some limited way. At this time, we are still only allowed groups of ten people at a time. And we have to work out schedules with instructors. We will keep everyone informed of our efforts via email blast.

The list of members for next year's Board is in the Rock-A-Gram. We are still looking for ways of voting in new board members. I have asked that the current board members keep their positions until this can be accomplished. The board members have agreed to do so.

In the economic state of today we are looking for any way to bring revenue into the club so if you have any ideas the board members should be informed using the club email address (SGAMS2020@gmail.com).

We will keep club members informed of changes to the club by email.

*Thank You*

*Joseph E Cooper*

## Board Members and Appointed Positions

Joe Cooper, President . 317-775-5476  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Richard Bunton, Director .. 570-592-6562  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Susan Biel, Vice President .315-380-7037  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Sandy Theisz, Director .. 727-686-1209  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Eric Odegaard, Treasurer . 727-333-5668  
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Bill (William) Schmidt, Facilities.. 727-657-0998  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Donna Sapp, Membership. ..727-420-0383  
Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com

Deborah Bremer, Webmaster.. 727-298-0061  
Email: dbremerslapidary@yahoo.com

Susan Biel, Editor, Rock-A-Gram 315-380-7037  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Dan Stefanski, Corresponding Secretary ..734-216-6855  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Pat Davis, Past President .727-323-2147  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Bill (William) Schmidt, Show Chair.. 727-657-0998  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Sandy Theisz, Dealer Chair .727-686-1209  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

Dave Watson, Director . 727-541-2917  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

JoAnn Knoss, Dinner Committee.. 727-238-8345  
Email: sgams2020@gmail.com

### NEW POLICY—PER SGAMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

In light of the current situation of the COVID-19 virus and in the interest of creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our club members, SGAMS Board of Directors are no longer permitting the cutting, grinding or polishing of any organic, non-mineral materials. Examples of such materials include but are not limited to bone, teeth, antlers, shells, and horn, all of which create fine, noxious dust particles that are harmful to one's health. Likewise, should any fossilized, petrified and re-mineralized items create noxious odors while being cut, ground, or polished, the moderator may request the member to refrain from working on that item.

SGAMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MAY 7, 2020

### **Club reopening on a limited basis**

Dear SGAMS Member

We sincerely hope that all of our members have been staying safe during this most stressful time. With things slowly starting to open back up around country, the SGAMS Board of Directors has decided to start to provide very limited Shop access to our members. Please understand that we need to protect our members and our moderators by limiting the number of members in our shops at any time.

#### **Cab Shop reopening guidelines.**

If you are interested in scheduling some time in the Cab Shop you must reply to this email and indicate that you are interested in Tuesday evenings (6 pm till 9 pm), Thursday days (Noon till 4 pm), or both. When I receive your replies I will forward your emails to our moderators who will put you on the schedule and you will be informed of your schedule. Please be advised that you must be scheduled for your shop time. If you do not receive permission from me or your moderator please do not just show up, for you will be turned away. We must ensure adequate social distancing so only three members at a time will be permitted to attend the Cab Shop session. The moderators will rotate individuals so everyone gets a chance to shop time. Once you reply to this Email Blast indicating that you want to be scheduled we will contact you by email regarding the schedule for the Shop. We ask for your patience as we develop a schedule that works for everyone.

#### **The Cab Shop guidelines.**

You must reply to this email to secure your place in the schedule. 3 members will be scheduled per shop session.

You must provide a face covering (mask) that must be used at all times during shop time or whenever you are within 6 feet of other members.

If you are not scheduled please do not just stop by... you will be asked to leave.

As always you are required to clean up all the equipment that you used, but we ask that you help your moderator disinfect the shop prior to leaving. Making it safe for the next scheduled shop time.

The Shop is in great shape with a new trim saw and new grinding and sanding wheels on our machines.

If you are scheduled for a shop session (please, please, please,) only attend if you are feeling 100% well. If you feel the slightest bit unwell please advise your moderator and stay home. We will all thank you for protecting our moderators and fellow members.

You must reply to this email to secure your place on the Silver Smithing schedule. Only 2 members will be scheduled per shop session.

You must provide a face covering (mask) that must be used at all times during shop time or whenever you are within 6 feet of other members.

If you are not scheduled please do not just stop by... you will be asked to leave.

If you are scheduled for a shop session (please, please, please,) only attend if you are feeling 100% well. If you feel the slightest bit unwell please advise your moderator and stay home. We will all thank you for protecting our moderators and fellow members.

**Club Reopening on a Limited Basis, cont.****Silver Smithing Students**

For Silver Smithing Students our rules will be similar to the list above. Joe Cooper will provide two days each week Tuesday 6 pm till 9 pm and Saturday from Noon till 4 pm. However, because of the limited space in the silver room, only two students will be allowed at each work sessions. Interested Students must reply to this email and tell me that you are interested in working with Joe Copper and what days you are interested in. The following guidelines will apply.

**The Silver Smithing guidelines.**

You must reply to this email to secure your place on the Silver Smithing schedule. Only 2 members will be scheduled per shop session.

You must provide a face covering (mask) that must be used at all times during shop time or whenever you are within 6 feet of other members.

If you are not scheduled please do not just stop by... you will be asked to leave.

If you are scheduled for a shop session (please, please, please,) only attend if you are feeling 100% well. If you feel the slightest bit unwell please advise your moderator and stay home. We will all thank you for protecting our moderators and fellow members.

I hope that those of you who are interested reply to this email and I will work with you and our moderators to confirm your scheduling.

Please contact me immediately if you have any questions.

Danski327@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Dan Stefanski

SGAMS Corresponding Secretary

[from an email sent to all members of record, on May 9, 2020]

## CDC GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM COVID-19

### Wash your hands often

[Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

**Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

### How to Wear a Cloth Face Covering

Cloth face coverings should—

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
- COVER ONE'S FACE FROM BRIDGE OF NOSE TO UNDER THE CHIN, AS SHOWN IN DIAGRAM



SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2020

**SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**

**BOARD MEETING, MAY 7, 2020**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the board did not meet in April. The need for social distancing also precluded the general membership meeting that month, and at this time it is unclear when meetings will be resumed. Under the circumstances the current board agreed to remain until such time as a vote can take place.

The board agreed to hold the May meeting online via Skype. The meeting was convened the evening of Thursday, May 7. Present (online) were Joe Cooper, Susan Biel, Rick Bunton, Dan Stefanski, Pat Davis and Dave Watson. Also present was Julia Larson, nominee for incoming president.

The board agreed that the May dinner meeting would not be held.

Reopening of the clubhouse for classes was discussed at length. The board agreed on implementing procedures to disinfect equipment, restrictions on class size, the cutting of certain materials, and methods for notifying membership of these safeguards. The specifics are outlined elsewhere in this publication and in email blasts to the membership.

Club finances were discussed, including the necessity of curtailing expenses and how the club might go forward if we are unable to hold a show in 2021.

The current board will have another online meeting in the coming weeks. Board nominees for the 2020-21 year will be invited to participate.

Respectfully submitted by Julia Larson (for Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary)

The nominating committee has nominated the following for 2020-21 board positions:

President—Julia Larson

Vice President—Rick Bunton

Recording Secretary—Gerri Groves

Corresponding Secretary—Dan Stefanski

Treasurer—Pat Church

3 Year Director—Shamus Walker

2 Year Director—Irene Muench

1 Year Director—Kelly Nolen

1 Year Director (Past President slot) - Greg Stephenson

Note: The election is normally held at the April meeting, with installation of new officers occurring at the May meeting. Since we are unable to have meetings due to the stay-at-home order, the election will not take place until the next meeting. The current board members will remain as such until that time.

Note: When new officers are installed, the newsletter will be edited by Susan Biel.

## SMILE whenever you Buy!

SGAMS is now 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](https://smile.amazon.com).

Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

### Can I use my existing [Amazon.com](https://Amazon.com) account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on [Amazon.com](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com)), you need to select:

#### **SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF ST PETERSBURG, FL\***

As the recipient of donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

*\*the acronym, "SGAMS" is not recognized by Amazon. As you begin typing "Suncoast Gem & Mineral..." it will show a drop down menu to select our "official name".*



## In Lieu of Your “Club Program” by Susan Biel, VP, Program Director

Since we have not been able to hold our General Meetings, I was not able to use the following for a Club Game Night. Here are some silly riddle-like questions, the answers to which have to do with minerals, jewelry making, silversmithing, and other pursuits associated with our Club.

I hope you have a little fun puzzling through these! A hint is that the answer to **some, but NOT ALL**, is a word that SOUNDS like the word clue.

EXAMPLE: *That person is so kind and pleasant, she is just so ---* \_\_\_\_\_ (6 letters) Answer: GNEISS—which is pronounced “NICE

### Game On!

- 1) These beads won't be used to muster you out of bed nor to play taps \_\_\_\_\_ (5 letters)
- 2) Musically speaking, it goes with ROLL \_\_\_\_\_ (4 letters)
- 3) A compliment on your intelligence and the cut of a diamond \_\_\_\_\_ (9)
- 4) Staurolite, staurolite first star I see tonight, only these stones are more often shaped like \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 5) I get really hungry when I am seeking this mineral, it gives me an \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 6) Don't underestimate this rock's strength and think it is so common that you take it for \_\_\_\_\_.(7)
- 7) A situation that we find stumps or confuses us is a \_\_\_\_\_ (8)
- 8) There are legendary couches for this in Hollywood for the movies \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 9) It is when moon gets bigger, and floor slippery-er \_\_\_\_\_ (3)
- 10) It may hold an ancient fly, or an alert on your phone \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 11) Aiyyy, matey I am a bloke looking to steal some fool's treasure \_\_\_\_\_ (6)
- 12) Don't confuse me with a cover of trees, or a wedding arch, I am busy turning wheels \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 13) While man cannot live by bread alone, he sure could live off the wealth of these rectangular stones, oui?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (8)
- 14) What's up Doc? I would be happy with a lot of these even though I couldn't eat them \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

Answers are at the bottom of page 11

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING

~ There Will Be No General Meetings Until Further Notice ~

MINERAL OF THE MONTH:

EMERALD

The Birthstone for the Month of May

“Emerald has priority over beryl as a mineral name. Emerald was known in antiquity and was prized as a gem. In the 1790s, Louis Nicolas Vauquelin, the discoverer of chromium, demonstrated that emerald and beryl were essentially the same chemical compound and that emeralds, *sensu strictu*, contained chromium. Nonetheless, emerald continued to be listed as the preferred species name for many decades and emerald finally began to be used as a variety name for beryl by the 1830s. New emerald reports referring to ordinary green or even blue beryl persisted in the amateur literature into the twentieth century. In the latter twentieth century, it was discovered that some emeralds contain more vanadium than chromium.”

[from mindat.org]

“Gem experts differ on the degree of green that makes one stone an emerald and another stone a less-expensive green beryl. Most gemologists, gemological laboratories, and colored stone dealers call a stone green beryl when its color is “too light” for it to be classified as emerald. Even among that group, however, there’s a difference of opinion about what’s considered “too light.”

[from gia.edu]



The Elizabeth Taylor Bulgari emerald suite, given to her by Richard Burton. The pendant alone achieved US\$6,587,500 at the Christie's auction of Elizabeth Taylor's estate in 2011. The ring sold for approximately US\$3 million, the necklace for around US\$6 million and the bracelet for just over US\$400,000.

Some links to help you keep track of upcoming shows:

<http://www.rockngem.com/> <http://www.jewelrysthows.com/>

## Other Web Sites:

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

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)

Pinellas Geological Society: [www.pgs.rocks](http://www.pgs.rocks)

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

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: [www.tampabayrockclub.com](http://www.tampabayrockclub.com)

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

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

Answer Key to Riddles on Page 9: 1) Bugle 2) Rock 3) Brilliant 4) Crosses 5) Apatite 6) Granite  
7) Corundum 8) Casting 9) Wax 10) Amber 11) Pyrite 12) Arbor 13) Baguette 14) Carats

Got them all right? Wow, you have as bad a case of Pun-i-ness as I do, Congratulations!!



**WE THANK OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO VISIT AND PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.**



Are you a member of SGAMS,  
and want to promote your business?  
Place Your Ad Here.

### **Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only\***

\* please see new procedures regarding classes on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter

**CABBING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm**

Rick Bunton 570-592-6562

**Thursdays 12 to 4pm**

Larry Murray 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

**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

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

### Webmaster

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 Phone: (727) 298-0061  
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### Membership Committee

(Membership)—Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
*Donna Sapp*  
 Email: [DSapp43@yahoo.com](mailto:DSapp43@yahoo.com)  
 Phone: (727) 420-0383  
 3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

### Show Committee

(Show Chair)—Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
*Bill Schmidt*  
 Email: [SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com)  
 Phone: (727) 657-0998  
 P.O. Box 13254, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3254

### Facilities

(Building Supervisor)—Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
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 P.O. Box 13254, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3254

### Dinner Committee

(Club Dinners)—Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
*JoAnn Knoss*  
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### Dealer Contact

(Dealer Chair)—Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.  
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