

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **WE'RE BACK!!!**

It's been a long time coming, but our first meeting in over a year **AT THE CLUBHOUSE** will be **Thursday May 20**. It will be a bring-your-own-sandwich (or whatever), outside in the back yard. **It will start at 6 pm**. Our regular third Thursday meetings will begin again in September, but this will be the first – and last - opportunity to get together before the summer break. There is a lot to catch up on, and new members to meet, so please plan to attend.

Our long-time recording secretary Gerri Groves, is leaving the position as of the end of this month. Gerri has done an outstanding job of recording the minutes of the board and general meetings for a number of years. Thank you, Gerri, for a job well done. I appreciate all you have done and hope we will continue to see you and Darryl as our regular club activities resume.

Plans for the 2022 show will be picking up speed as the summer progresses. The contract for our new – and hopefully permanent - venue will be signed soon. Stay tuned for details.

If you have travel plans for the summer, please stay safe and come back in the fall to tell us about your adventures.

*Julia Larson, President*

Julia Larson, President

#### SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Due to the lack of Quorum, there was no official Board Meeting, or Minutes taken for April 2021

## Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2020-2021

**EMAIL FOR THE FOLLOWING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IS: SGAMS2020@GMAIL.COM**

Julia Larson, President 727-410-3781	Richard Bunton, Vice President 570-592-6562
Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322	Patricia Church, Treasurer 941-718-0664
Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary 315-380-7037 Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com	Kelly Nolen, 3 Year Director 727-584-2775
Breta McGuire, 2 Year Director 727-744-7344 (PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR A CALL BACK)	Irene Muench, 1 Year Director 727-421-5832
Sherry Staley, 1 Year Director 727-480-6730	Bill (William) Schmidt, Facilities 727-657-0998 and Show Chair
Donna Sapp, Membership 727-420-0383 Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com	JoAnn Knoss, Dinner Committee 727-238-8345
Debra Bremer, Webmaster 727-298-0061 Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com	Susan Biel, Editor, Rock-A-Gram 315-380-7037 Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

President's Message —	Cover	Nominations and Board Duties -	7-8
Meeting Minute —	Cover	Gem of The Month —	8
Officers & Directors —	2	Useful Links —	9
Announcement —	3	Ads & Class Info —	10
Thank Yous —	3	About Us -	11
Fun Facts: State Gems —	4		
Editorial: Arizona Trip Report	5-6		

**THANK YOU:** Many, many thanks to those who helped create, facilitate and participated in the online Facebook Auction, which netted the club \$348.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the amount of business there is to attend to, there will NOT be a live Auction at the May 20th General Meeting at the Clubhouse. Meeting starts at 6:00 P.M.

Thank you to The May 15th Clean Up Crew!

Thank you to the following volunteers who cleaned inside and outside The Clubhouse!

Rick Bunton

Kelly Nolen

Sue Hazelden

Pat Davis

Julia Larson

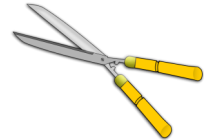
Pat Church

Joe Cooper

Susan Biel

Dave Watson

Sybille Ruschmeirer



Blue Mountain Jasper, Part II

May 5, 2021  
Dear Janice -  
It was great to meet you, Jeremy and Lincoln, and it was such a treat for our members to have the opportunity to purchase some of your beautiful Blue Mountain Jasper and Thunder Eggs.  
We also wish to thank you for your generous and thoughtful gift to the club of the two gorgeous pieces of rough Blue Mountain Jasper - slabs of which will be a huge hit in one of our fund-raising auctions, for sure! And the two Thunder Eggs will be a welcome addition to our club's Specimen Display case.  
We wish you and your family all the best and continued success with your Thunder Egg claim operation and coming on the legacy of your father and the Blue Mountain Jasper. Pat Davis and I will be working on an article about him, the mine, and your claim, for our Newsletter, The Rock-A-Gram, and we will send you a copy when it is published.  
Again, many thanks -  
Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary  
Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society of

Before they left, Janice & Jeremy Smith donated two large pieces of Blue Mountain Jasper rough, which are being slabbed for auction/sale, plus two Thunder Eggs for our display cases. A Thank you letter was sent on behalf of the club.

## FUN FACTS: MATCH THE GEMSTONE TO THE STATE:

1. Farburn Agate



2. Star Garnet



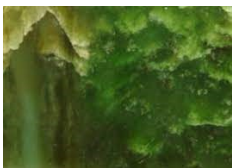
3. Tourmaline—



4. Blue Chalcedony—



5. Bowenite\* —



6. Petrified Wood -



7. Benitoite—



Answer Key is on Page 10

\*not to be confused with "Bowling-ite"





## A Trip to Arizona: The Trail of Time— Grand Canyon National Park - by Susan Biel



I had visited the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona twice before, but this trip, on April 23rd, was the first I knew about “The Trail of Time”. <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/the-trail-of-time.htm>

Along the South Rim the NPS has installed bronze markers in the sidewalk, and every tenth marker represents ONE MILLION years (they are spaced a meter or 3.28 ft apart) of the Grand Canyon’s geological history. Walking the length of the trail one way is 4.56 km (2.83 miles) and it spans the canyon’s 2 BILLION year history. At the beginning and end are monoliths created from layers of rock that make up the canyon walls, and along the path pieces of these rock layers are spaced at intervals representing their position and timeframe (I, of course, had to touch, photograph—and covet—each of these rocks!).

My husband Al and I walked the trail from west to east, going “backwards” from the top to the bottom layer in this visualization of the life span of the canyon. It was his first time seeing the grandeur of this wonder of Nature, and he was, of course, in awe. I was just as moved seeing it for a third time, as each perspective has been different.

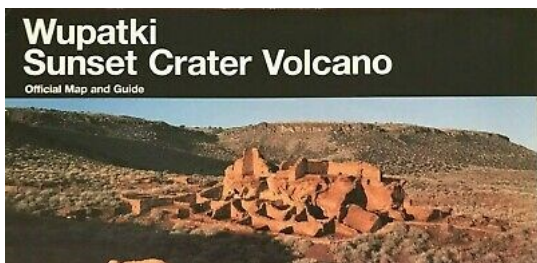




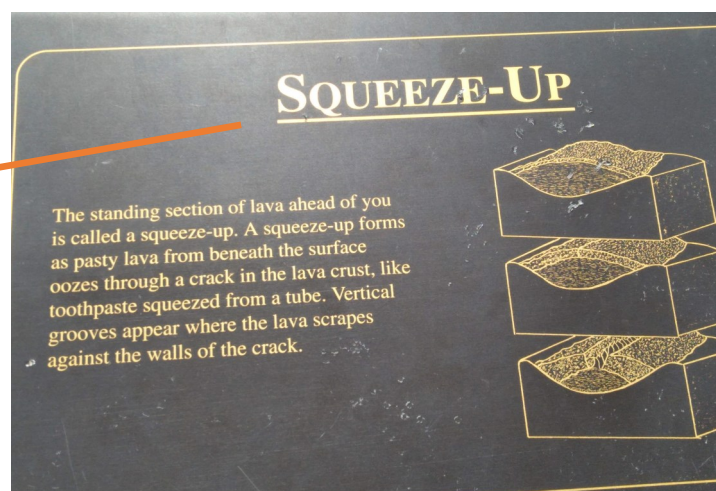
## ARIZONA—PART II



Another geological wonder that we visited was Sunset Crater Volcano. This relatively “new” volcano erupted between 1040 and 1100 A.D. near present day Flagstaff, AZ, in the San Francisco volcanic field that has a six million year history (in fact, there was a 3.3 magnitude earthquake in Flagstaff the week before we arrived). The 1000 ft. Sunset Crater began with molten rock, bombs and cinders that spread as far as 800 square miles. It displaced the indigenous people living in the area\* After it settled down, it took 250 years for the first vegetation to take hold as the layers of cinders broke down and the ash retained enough moisture—this process is called “Succession” Today, the lava fields are a magnificent sight, with trails throughout allowing a close up experience of Nature’s power.



\*Also in this same park are the Wupatki pueblo ruins of the Cohonina, Kayenta Anasazi, and Sinagua people, who inhabited the area around 500 A.D.



## NOMINATIONS—AND BOARD MEMBER'S DUTIES EXPLAINED

The SGAMS Annual Meeting was officially in April, and President Julia Larson has appointed a Nominating Committee comprised of Rick Bunton and Susan Biel.

As Julia does not wish to carry on in the capacity as President, **a member who has been on the Board** for at least one year (either currently, or in the past) **will need to be nominated for and accept that position.**

Rick Bunton will accept nomination to retain his position as Vice President, as will Patricia Church for Treasurer, and Susan Biel for Corresponding Secretary. After many years serving as Recording Secretary Gerri Groves is stepping down. We owe her many, many thanks for her dedication to this task since 2014.

Additionally, as the Directors rotate through their positions, Breta McGuire will go from being the Three Director to the Two Year and Kelly Nolen will go from being the Two Year Director to a One Year Director. **We will need two members** in good standing to fill the positions of Three Year Director, and one for the additional One Year Director.

Here is a write up from President Julia Larson about the **Duties of the Board:**

“Our club, like a lot of other organizations, has a board to help it function. And, also like a lot of organizations, folks don't seem to be falling all over themselves to serve. The duties and responsibilities of the board are listed in the by-laws, which hardly anyone seems to have read, so what follows is a brief summary.

The board meets at the clubhouse on the first Thursday of the month from September through May. Board meetings start at 7 pm and are usually over by 8. There are nine board members, and in order to conduct any official business, a quorum of five members must be present. Board meetings are open to anyone, not just board members.

The PRESIDENT conducts the board meetings as well as the general meetings on the third Thursday of the month, also from September through May. There are no meetings during the summer. The president also writes a brief message for the Rock-a-Gram, and is the main contact person for the club.

The VICE-PRESIDENT is in charge of programs for general meetings. Some programs are pre-set: The September meeting is for members to talk about what they did during the summer, regardless of whether is pertains to club functions. The meetings in December and May are usually reserved for dinner meetings. The annual club auction is at the February meeting. The VP will conduct the board and general meetings if the president is not available.

The position of the TREASURER is the most involved. The treasurer is in charge of the club finances. She pays the bills, records income, does the banking, and provides monthly reports to the board.

The CORRESPONDING SECRETARY sends emails to the membership announcing classes or other business that needs to be provided before it goes into the Rock-a-Gram newsletter.

The RECORDING SECRETARY takes minutes at the board and general meetings and provides a written summary of these meetings to the board, then sends a copy to the newsletter editor for publication.

## Board Member Duties, cont.,

There are four DIRECTOR positions. The directors attend the board meetings and vote on any club business that needs formal approval.

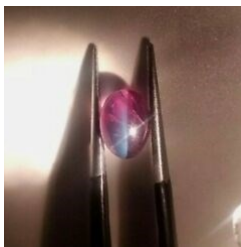
The treasurer and recording secretary can remain in those positions indefinitely. All other positions have one - or two-year terms.

Committee chairs are appointed by the board. These include, but are not limited to the show chair, building chair, newsletter editor, the membership chair and the hospitality chair. (The position of education chair has been unfilled for several years.)

Board member activities generally take up no more than a few hours a month. If you are asked to serve as a board member or a committee chair, please accept. The club cannot function properly without your help.

## Gems of The *NEXT THREE Months*

Since the Rock A Gram is not published in June, July or August, I thought it only fair to skip over May (I covered your Emerald in the May 2020 issue, May babies), and explore the Gemstones of these neglected months.



First, the stunning gemstone of June—**Alexandrite**.

A form of chrysoberyl, Alexandrite is known for its remarkable color change, dubbed “Emerald by day, Ruby by night” wherein the stone will be green in sunlight but change to red in incandescent light. Unfortunately genuine Alexandrite is so rare and expensive, few are able to appreciate this magic. Its other unique characteristic is the “chatoyancy” or “cat’s eye” effect when cabbed. To explain this effect: *“The phenomenon of cat’s-eye occurs in cabochon-cut stones that contain a high density of parallel fibrous inclusions. The “cat’s-*

*eye” is a line of light that reflects from the dome of the cabochon at right angles to the parallel inclusions.”*

July— The Birthstone of **Ruby**, a very royal stone, is quite fitting for the month of Leo, the royal sign in the Zodiac. The word ruby derives from the Latin word for red, “ruber”, the color of passion and love. The finest grade coloration of ruby has a hint of purple and is known as “pigeon’s blood” . A variety of corundum, it gets its distinct color from the presence of chromium. The most prominent source of rubies today is the Luc Yen region of Viet Nam. One of the most famous rubies in the world is the 2.38 carat Carmen Lucia Ruby at the Smithsonian.



August’s birthstone is the captivating **Peridot**—A form of Olivine, Peridot is one of only two gems observed to be formed not in the Earth’s crust, but in molten rock of the upper mantle. It has also been found in meteorites—no wonder that Ancient Egyptians thought that the gem was sent to Earth in the explosion of a star. It is the national gem stone of Egypt. Inside the famous “The Shine of The Three Kings” are massive 200 carat peridot that for centuries were mistaken for emeralds.



## Helpful Links:

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: <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.

**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.**





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Contact Julia Larson at [glassgal0947@gmail.com](mailto:glassgal0947@gmail.com)

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

**CABBING: Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 pm**

Rick Bunton [[ricbunton@gmail.com](mailto:ricbunton@gmail.com)]

Must receive request by Friday

**Thursdays 12 to 4pm**

Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive TEXT request by Tuesday Evening

**FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm**

Dave Watson 727-541-2917 or [sgams2020@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sgams2020@gmail.com)

**WAX CASTING: By Reservation, announced by Email Blast to All Members**

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or [sgams2020@gmail.com](mailto:sgams2020@gmail.com)

ANSWER KEY TO STATE GEMSTONES PAGE 5:

1. FAIRBURN AGATE—**S. DAKOTA**; 2. STAR GARNET—**IDAHO**; 3. TOURMALINE—**MAINE**;
4. BLUE CHALCEDONY—**NEBRASKA**; 5. BOWENITE—**RHODE ISLAND**;
6. PETRIFIED WOOD—**WASHINGTON**; 7. BENITOITE—**CALIFORNIA**

## 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**

If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the Rock-A-Gram, please email it to [peecheene8@gmail.com](mailto:peecheene8@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

\*[the club no longer has a Post Office box, and now receives mail at this location]

### **Webmaster**

(Website) **Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
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[www.SGAMS.com](http://www.SGAMS.com)

### **Membership Committee**

(Membership)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
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3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

### **Show Committee**

(Show Chair)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
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Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Facilities**

(Building Supervisor)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
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Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Dinner Committee**

(Club Dinners)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
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