

President's Message:

Ten Things I am Thankful For

1. The election is over.
2. A Covid-19 vaccine seems likely in the near future.
3. Halloween is over and I'm not stuck with a huge bag of Tootsie Rolls and Jolly Ranchers.
4. My local library has reopened.
5. I won't be eating turkey hash or turkey soup through the middle of December.
6. I won't be standing in line at the post office to mail Christmas presents.
7. It doesn't take half my pension check to fill the gas tank on my vehicle.
8. The stores have toilet paper and cleaning supplies and PPEs on the shelves.
9. It looks like we will get through another hurricane season unscathed.
10. It looks like we made it through 2020, a year which has lasted at least ten extra months.

Thanks to all of you for staying in touch with the club. I hope we can resume membership meetings in the new year.

Julia Larson

Julia Larson



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DUES – DO WE OR DON'T WE?

This article is intended to clear up confusion about dues during the Covid-19 induced hiatus of club activities.

Our club fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30 with monthly meetings (no meetings are held from June through August). According to the by-laws, dues are due by September 1, with a "grace" period through December 31. After the grace period ends on December 31, the individual or family membership is considered suspended (i.e., not in good standing). The member/family will be in suspended status through December 31 of the following year. No newsletter will be sent to those in suspended status, their membership card is no longer valid, and they are not permitted to attend classes or use club equipment. Payment of dues during this period will return the member/family to good standing. If dues are not paid by the end of the following December, the member/family is dropped from the club roster and would need to complete a new Application for Membership.

A number of new memberships are received during or shortly after the annual show in March. This year was no exception. Questions inevitably arise when new members pay in March, then receive notice that dues are again due six months later. While it may cause unhappiness and confusion, this policy is according to the By-Laws and cannot be changed without amending the by-laws.

Through the years various boards have struggled with how to handle this situation. This year the Covid pandemic has further complicated things because the club is closed. We have been unable to hold meetings, although access to the shop and classes are available on a limited basis.

Club expenses – utilities, insurance, property tax, etc. – must continue to be paid whether or not the club is open. Class fees cover some, but certainly not all, of the specific expenses incurred by the class. As of 2021, club income will be severely reduced and we will need everyone's dues to help meet the expenses.

The following excerpts from the By-Laws (<http://sgams.com/bylaws/Bylaws.htm>) serves as a reminder of the policies regarding dues. (Italics are mine.)

Article III: Membership

Section 2: Admission to Membership

Any person who is interested in the purposes and goals of the Society may obtain membership by completing an Application for Membership Form, *volunteering to serve on at least one committee, and paying one (1) year's dues*. Upon acceptance into the Society a membership card shall be issued.

[Continued on next page...]

[Dues, cont.]

Section 6: Members in Good Standing

Members *whose annual dues are paid* and who have not been suspended shall be considered “members in good standing.”

Article IV: Dues and Fees

Section 2: Date Payable

The annual dues shall be payable on September 1.

Section 3: Delinquent

Dues shall be considered delinquent if not received by December 1 and membership shall be suspended. If dues are not received by the next September 1, membership shall be forfeited. [Ex: If a member joins in March at the time of the annual show, or at any time during that year prior to August 31st, dues paid at that time are for the current fiscal year. Dues for the following fiscal year will be due again on September 1. This should be explained to new members no matter when they join.]

Section 4: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Society shall be from July 1 through June 30.

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**Anyone attending a class at the clubhouse and using club equipment MUST be a member in good standing.**

As a short-term fix, I have instructed the Membership Chair to email cards to members with an effective date (the month dues are received) rather than a “through” date.

Julia Larson, President

September 1, 2020 – June 30, 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: peecheene8@gmail.com

Kelly Nolen, 3 Year Director 440-953-8711  
OR 440-346-8705 (no text)

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: bremlapidity@yahoo.com

Susan Biel, Editor, Rock-A-Gram 315-380-7037  
Email: peecheene8@gmail.com



A rock has no detectable opinion about gravity. ~ Terry Prachett

# NOTICES

## **MARCH SHOW – A “NO-SHOW”**

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society will not host a show in March 2021. After much deliberation, the Board agreed we could not guarantee a safe environment for members, vendors or the public. The vendors from this year's show were notified so they could make their plans accordingly.

While a location for the 2022 show has tentatively been identified, the venue has been closed during the pandemic so we have been unable to negotiate a contract. As soon as the location has been reopened, we will make every effort to secure it for our usual time slot, the first full weekend in March.

Julia Larson, President

## **Auction News:**

SGAMS's Second Online Auction was held from October 14th through 25th, again, through Better-World.com. I posted the auction on our Facebook page and sent messages to six or more Gem Clubs in the State of Florida, plus 3-4 in Georgia, posted it on lapidary sales and forum websites.

There were 47 items listed, 24 of which were bid on. Ten persons participated in bidding, and there were eight winning bidders. This auction netted us \$258.00.

However, for now, I am taking a break and re-thinking the auction as a venue for sales. It is very labor intensive and not the ROI I was hoping for!

I have gotten several offers of donations from members, which is wonderful! I am seeking one or two persons among our members who would be interested in being our "Curator" of donated materials, to go to members homes to look over the offered items. I am not the most knowledgeable in recognizing items of value or interest, which I feel is the key to successful sales.

Please email me at [peecheene8@gmail.com](mailto:peecheene8@gmail.com) if you are interested and we can discuss the matter.

Susan Biel

One way to look at it, is that

A diamond is a piece of coal that  
handled stress exceptionally well

## Something Fun from the USGS.gov Website:

Bring out your inner geologist and take the Geologist Tongue Twister Audio or Video challenge!

First, do an audio or video recording of you reading the Tongue Twister. Second, feature a rock or mineral from your rock collection or go outside and find yourself a rock; they are everywhere!

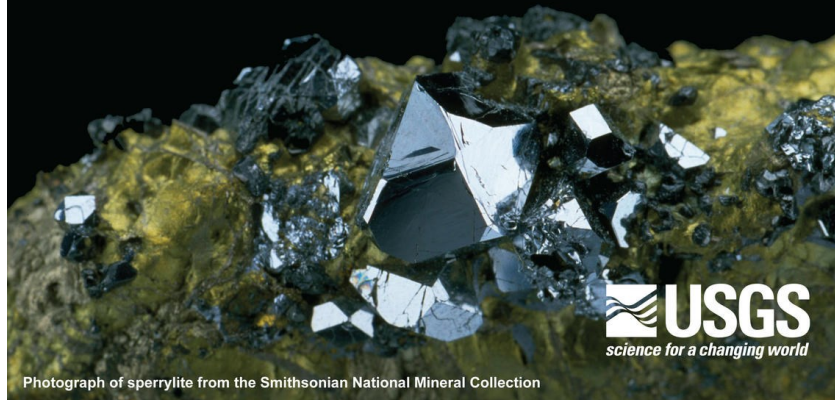
Be sure to hashtag your video #earthscienceweek and #USGSrocks

This Earth Science week (and beyond) we challenge you to a geology tongue twister. Tell us about your rock specimen. Do you know what your rock type is? There are three groups, Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic. Is it a rock, mineral, or fossil? Even if you don't know what kind of rock you have, say something about your rock, mineral, or fossil.

Continue the rest of the article here: <https://www.usgs.gov/center-news/a-geologist-tongue-twister>

### A GEOLOGIST TONGUE TWISTER

Geologists collect  
slate and shale slabs  
sparkling sperrylite  
stinky sulfur  
silvery silicon  
sedimentary sandstone  
and shards and slivers  
of shiny schist



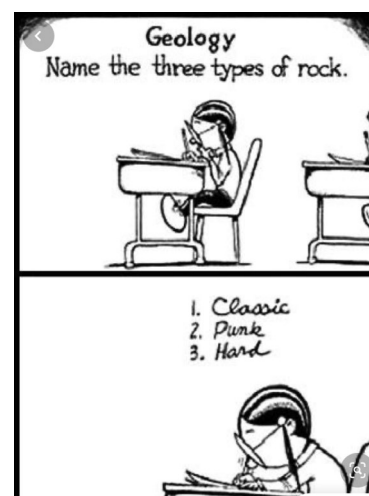
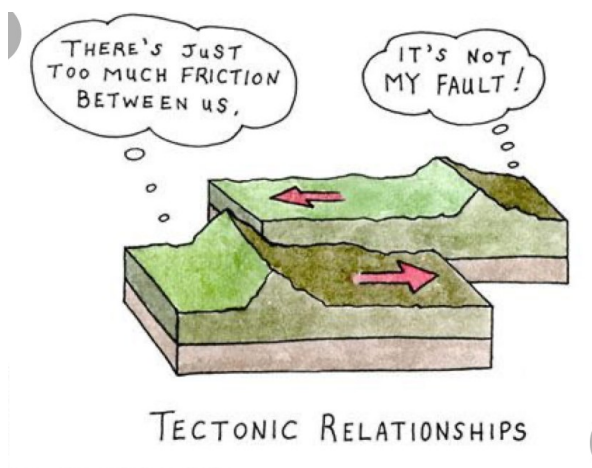
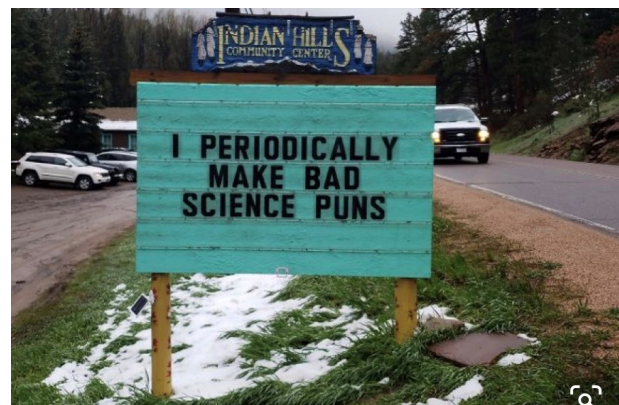
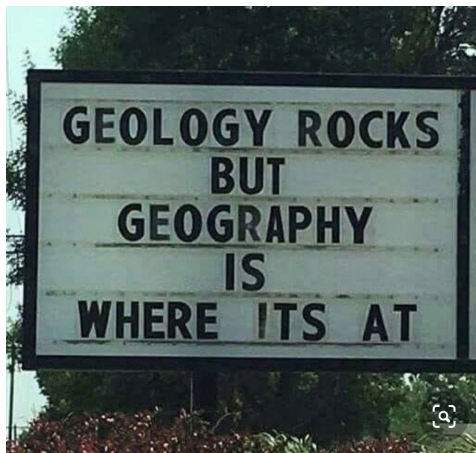
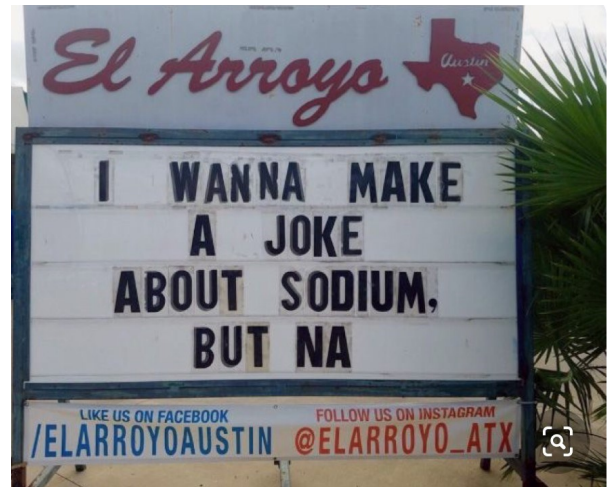
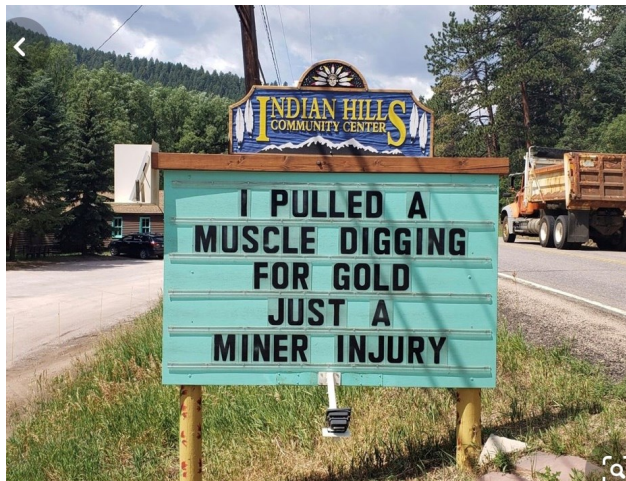
Photograph of sperrylite from the Smithsonian National Mineral Collection

...we might say that the earth has a spirit of growth; that its flesh is the soil, its bones the arrangement and connection of the rocks of which the mountains are composed, its cartilage the tufa, and its blood the springs of water.

~ Leonardo da Vinci



Because, we all need a good laugh right about now...



[Gleaned from Pinterest.com]

## Gem of the Month: NOVEMBER: CITRINE & TOPAZ

November is also a month with two Gem Stones associated with it, both with yellow, gold and brown hues that evoke the warm colors of Fall and Harvest. The two stones are often mistaken for one another, although they are unrelated.

Citrine is a mineral made up of quartz and derives its name from the citron fruit because of its lemon-like color, which is caused by traces of iron in the quartz. In the 17th Century, Scottish men used citrine to decorate the handles of their daggers, known as dirks. It was also popular during the Art Deco era. Brazil is the largest supplier of this gem.



Pure Topaz is colorless! Precious topaz ranges from orange-yellow to dark brown. It derives its name from *Topazios*, the ancient Greek name for St. John's Island in the Red Sea, although the yellow stones mined there may not have been Topaz at all, but the name stuck! The most prized is Imperial Topaz a vibrant orange with pink undertones, found in the Ural Mountains of Russia in the 19th Century and named to honor the Czar. The most famous topaz is the Braganza, in the Portuguese Crown jewels.



[from americangemsociety.com and jewelrycentral.com]

"A Gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials."

~ Seneca

Crystals grew inside rock like arithmetic flowers. They lengthened and spread, added plane to plane in an awed and perfect obedience to an absolute geometry that even stones—maybe only the stones—understood.

~Annie Dillard



## 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)

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.**



Are you a member of SGAMS,  
and want to promote your business?

Place Your Ad Here.

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

\* please see CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID, PAGE 10

**CABBING: Tuesdays, 12 to 4 m**

Rick Bunton [ricbunton@gmail.com]

Must receive request by Sunday Evening

**Thursdays 12 to 4pm**

Larry Murray [Murray\_Larry@hotmail.com]

Must receive request by Tuesday Evening

**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

**CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID (revised 11/07/2020)**

Dear SGAMS Member

We sincerely hope that all of our members have been staying safe during this most stressful time. Due to the continuing pandemic and County guidelines for COVID-19, the SGAMS Board of Directors made the decision to provide shop time, however, to protect our members and our moderators the number of members allowed in our shops at any time has been limited.

**Cab Shop reopening guidelines.**

The Moderators emails are listed on Page 9. Interested participants must contact the Moderator by the stated deadline for the day they wish to attend. Please be advised that you must be scheduled for your shop time. If you do not receive permission from your moderator, please do not just show up, for you will be turned away. We must ensure adequate social distancing so only a few members at a time being permitted to attend the Cab Shop session. The moderators will rotate individuals so everyone gets a chance for shop time. We ask for your patience as we develop a schedule that works for everyone.

**Silver Smithing Students**

For Silver Smithing Students our rules will be similar to the above. Joe Cooper will provide two days each week Tuesday 6 pm till 9 pm and Saturday from Noon till 4 pm.; because of the limited space in the silver room, only two students will be allowed at each work sessions. Joe will send me notification of class times, and when I send the email blast, his email will be included for you to contact him directly—this also applies to Casting Classes.

Please note:

- You must wear a face covering (mask) at all times during shop time or whenever you are within 6 feet of other members.
- As always you are required to clean up all the equipment that you use.
- If you are scheduled for a shop session or class, (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.

Susan Biel

SGAMS Corresponding Secretary

peechikeene8@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.~~ **[NOTE FOR 2020: GENERAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, DUE TO COVID-19 ]**

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 [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

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

### **Webmaster**

(Website) **Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Debra Bremer  
Email: [bremerslapidary@yahoo.com](mailto:bremerslapidary@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (727) 298-0061  
[www.SGAMS.com](http://www.SGAMS.com)

### **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  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Facilities**

(Building Supervisor)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Bill Schmidt  
Email: [SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Dinner Committee**

(Club Dinners)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
JoAnn Knoss  
Email: [sgams2020@gmail.com](mailto:sgams2020@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 539-6388  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL