

November 2021

Volume 65, No. 1 Page 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello SGAMS Members,

I hope you and yours are well and enjoying the cooler weather. It's hard to believe it's almost Thanksgiving already. This year has gone by so quickly compared to the last one.

Everything is coming together nicely for our much-anticipated Show in March. Please spread the word to all your family, friends, acquaintances and everyone who may enjoy attending. Also see the article on page 7 regarding the advertising post cards—that provide a discount on admission!

I would like to request donations of items for the Silent Auction at the Show. We prefer rock and gem related and jewelry/jewelry making items. Please contact me to arrange drop off for donated items. Thanks in advance.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our November Meeting. Our Program for the month will be audience participation to share "What I Learned/Made During the Pandemic" Bring the projects you made and rocks and gems you added to your collection during the last few months.

Please send in your 2021/2022 dues if you haven't already done so.

Many thanks to our Officers and Board and everyone who has kept SGAMS together during these past months.

Please stay safe and be well.

And, keep collecting those pretty rocks!

Sincerely,

Kelly Nolen

Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2021-22

Kelly Nolen, President
 Email: oescharmer@aol.com
 Phone: (440) 953-8711 (summer)
 (727) 584-2775 (winter)
 No texts on either

TBD, Vice President
 Email: Phone:

Patricia Church, Treasurer
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Julia Larson, Recording Secretary
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary
 Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com
 Phone: (315) 380-7037

Chandra McBride, 3 Year Director
 Email: celitehealth@outlook.com
 Phone: (813) 601-6007

Breta McGuire, 2 Year Director
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

Sherry Staley, 1 Year Director
 Email: slstaley1956@gmail.com
 Phone: (727) 480-6730

Pat Davis, 1 Year Director
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com

OTHER APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Bill (William) Schmidt,
 Building, and Annual Show Chair
 Email: SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com

Sherry Staley, Dealer Chair
 Email: slstaley1956@gmail.com

Donna Sapp, Membership Chair
 Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com
 Phone: (727) 420-0383

Debra Bremer, Webmaster
 Email: bremerslapidary@yahoo.com
 Phone: (727) 534-0590

JoAnn Knoss, Annual & Holiday
 Dinner Chair
 Email: SGAMS2020@gmail.com
 Phone: (727) 238-8345

Susan Biel, Bulletin & Publication Chair
 Rock-A-Gram Newsletter
 Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com
 Phone: (315) 380-7037

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ADD
 THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES TO
 YOUR CONTACTS SO THAT THEY
 DO NOT GO TO SPAM!**

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SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



OCTOBER 21, 2021

President Kelly Nolen called the meeting was called to order at the clubhouse at 707 pm. There were 8 members attending and two guests.

The minutes were approved as published. The treasurer reported that the club is still operating in the black. The annual audit has been completed but the report itself had not been written. It will be presented to the board at a future meeting.

The board meeting in November will be held on Zoom.

There was discussion regarding the obligation of members, applicants as well as current ones, to indicate in what club activities they would help. A motion to temporarily suspend this requirement was made and subsequently withdrawn after discussion.

The Christmas holiday dinner was discussed. JoAnn Knoss, hospitality chair, will research possible locations and report back at the next board meeting.

Termite tenting will happen in January.

Show: Sherry Staley, dealer chair, said 19 applications have been mailed to prospective dealers; more than half have been returned. Re advertising, Susan Biel suggested putting information on the Times bulletin board, which is free.

The club received an extremely high water bill for September. A thorough examination of the clubhouse and yard showed no leaks. Kelly will contact the water department to discuss. Also discussed was the need to gather information on location of water shutoff valve and other pertinent information to be kept on the club's laptop for future access.

We received a letter from a 9 year old boy who wanted information on geology and rocks. Kelly will contact him.

The club is still in need of a vice president following the resignation of the current one. Susan had a list of potentially eligible members. Kelly will contact these to see if anyone is interested. If a candidate is found, Susan will talk to the person about what is involved, then Kelly can appoint him/her subject to board approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 758 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 705 pm. Attending were Kelly Nolen, Pat Church, Pat Davis, Breta McGuire (there was no quorum). Also attending were JoAnn Knoss and Bill Schmidt.

The water issue still has not been resolved. Kelly will meet with the water board on Nov. 17. After the huge spike in September, usage returned to the normal amount in October.

Show: Bill noted contact from a dealer regarding how we will handle the show in relation to the covid pandemic. Pat Davis suggested we take the official position of the CDC. Pat also said she has received an order of 500 postcards. These will be taken to the Tampa show and other locations. Discussion of other advertising venues included Facebook & the Rock & Gem website. More than half of the dealers have responded; the others should be emailed as a reminder.

Kelly noted conventional locks and deadbolts should not be used on doors with coded locks. Kelly will post signs on these doors.

November 4, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes, cont.

Christmas dinner: JoAnn proposed the Applebee's on East Bay as the location. There was discussion regarding expected attendance. Contacting members by phone is probably the best way to find out who may attend.

Pat Church reported club's financial situation remains in the black. Kelly is still not on the club bank account; past president Julia Larson is still a signer.

Regarding the letter from the boy who wanted information on rocks and geology, Kelly has not contacted him yet.

The meeting was adjourned at 730 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

As you know, the new "Club Year" begins in September, and with that, all members need to renew their membership. The annual dues are \$20 for individual, and \$30 for a family of two or more persons.

Renewing members do not need to complete another application, but if any information has changed: email, phone, address, etc. please make note of that when sending in your dues.

Checks are to be made out to **Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society** or simply **SGAMS** and mailed to:

Donna Sapp, 3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

If you have friends or family who would like to join, a copy of the application is included in this bulletin.

There is a grace period for payment until December 31st., but the sooner the better — please get those checks to Donna! It is also a good idea and much appreciated if you mail your dues now, to avoid the crush at the clubhouse prior to the meeting.

And, only members in good standing (dues paid) are able to take classes, workshops or use the clubhouse. Be sure to have your membership card on you for proof.

**Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Application for Membership**

Name: _____
Last Name First Name Spouse's Name

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

May we publish your contact information to our club members? Yes No

Occupation(s): Self: _____ Spouse: _____

Type of Membership: Adult Single (\$20) Family (\$30)

Family means spouse and/or at least one child under 18 living in your home.

WILL YOU DONATE TIME AND TALENT TO THE CLUB? Yes No

<u>Reason for Joining</u>	<u>Equipment Owned</u>	<u>Hobby Assets</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Share Mutual Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Saw	<input type="checkbox"/> Will show gem and mineral collection to club?
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat Lap/Cabber	<input type="checkbox"/> Hobby slides, CD, VHS
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Grinder	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Club House	<input type="checkbox"/> Faceting Machine	
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

What other clubs are you (or have you been) a member? _____

What position(s) have you held in other clubs? _____

Service to the club: In order for your membership application to be considered for approval, you must select at least 1 (one) area below where you have an interest and feel you can be of assistance.

(Indicate all areas where you have an interest and can assist YOUR club)	
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Serve as a Committee Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> B. Serve on a Committee. <input type="checkbox"/> C. Assist VP with monthly membership meeting program. <input type="checkbox"/> D. Work with Field Trip Chairman on club trips. <input type="checkbox"/> E. Assist at annual show: Ticket Booth <input type="checkbox"/> F. Assist at annual show: Information Booth <input type="checkbox"/> G. Assist at annual show: Club Booth <input type="checkbox"/> H. Serve as club officer or board member/ Historian.	<input type="checkbox"/> I. Assisting Newsletter Editor (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> J. Assist with Maintenance of the club house. <input type="checkbox"/> K. Working as a club Instructor (cabbng, faceting, wire wrap, silversmith, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> L. Hospitality for Monthly Meetings (set-up coffee and supplies)

Use of the club facilities is a privilege of membership in SGAMS. Please be prepared to present your membership card when you come in to use the shop or take a class. Your membership card will be emailed to you at the email address we have on file after we receive your dues.

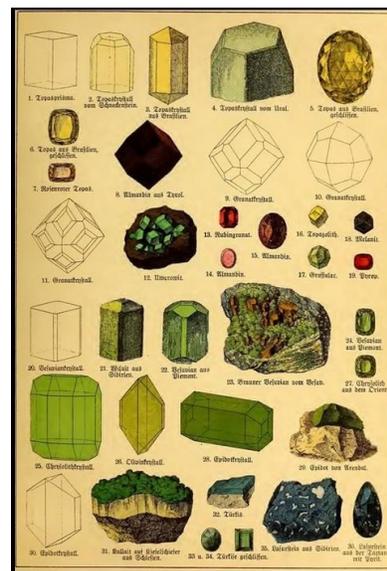
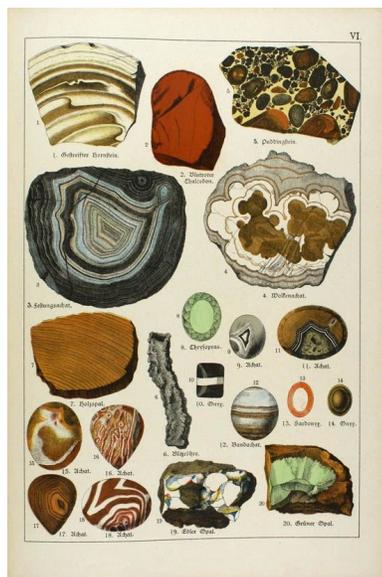
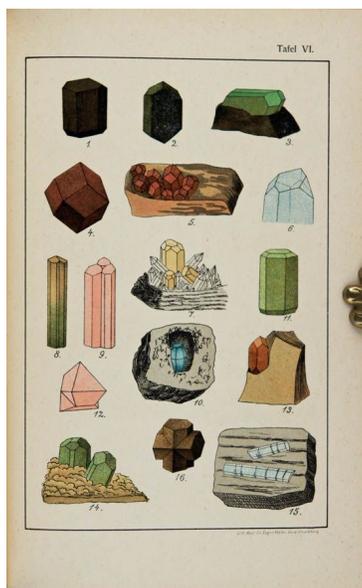
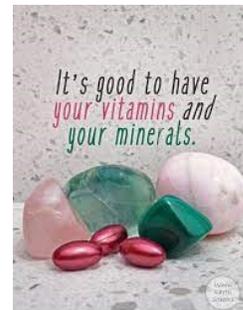
Mail application to: Donna Sapp, 3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Dues Paid? _____ Date: _____

Membership Chairman Treasurer Date Accepted to Club

FUN STUFF:

1. What do you call it when two carbons are in a relationship? Carbon dating.
2. Why was the boulder emotionless? Because it had a heart of stone.
3. Why was the geologist sad? Because his marriage was on the rocks.
4. What did the young rock say about failing his tests? I don't want to talc about it.
5. What is rock's favorite fruit? A pome-granite.
6. Why was the criminal rock acquitted? Because his alibi was rock solid.
7. What do they do with a dead geologist? They barium.
8. What do you call a dubious rock? A shamrock.
9. Why did the rock decide to hit the gym? Because he wanted to be bigger and boulder.
10. What did the doctor prescribe to the sick geologist? Tech-tonic.



NOVEMBER 18TH—GENERAL MEETING

COME ONE, COME ALL! COME SHOW AND TELL!

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM IS "WHAT I LEARNED/MADE DURING THE PANDEMIC"

SHOW US YOUR STUFF!

MEETING CONVENES AT 7 P.M. PROGRAM FOLLOWING.

PREPARING FOR OUR 2022 ANNUAL SHOW!!

Below is an electronic version of the postcard advertising our show in March. Please feel free -and motivated - to print out copies to pass around, email copies to everyone you know who might be interested and keep on doing so as much and often as possible to generate some grand excitement over our 2022 Show! There are also printed cards available at the Clubhouse—please ask about them at the Meetings!

[Hint: you can right click on the image and choose SAVE IMAGE or COPY IMAGE and place it on a blank WORD document; on an iPad you can “touch and hold” to copy it to your photo library and send it to a wireless printer. The image is roughly 7” wide and 5-1/2” long, but you can resize it on a WORD document].

Also see attachment in Nov. 8th Meeting Announcement email from peechikeene8@gmail.com (the email for club announcements and the Rock-A-Gram).



**SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**
 presents our
51ST ANNUAL SHOW
NEW/OLD LOCATION
Largo Event Center (formerly Minnreg Hall)
 6340 126th Ave N, Largo, FL
MAR 4, 5, 6, 2022
 Fri, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Gems, Minerals, Jewelry, Slabs, Cabochons
Fossils, Beads
Door Prizes, Exhibits and More!

Free Parking **ADMISSION** **Free Parking**
 Donations: \$5.00/adult good for all three days,
 Children under 6 FREE, Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00
 \$1.00 off admission with this ad. Limit one per person.
 Refreshments available

Gem of The Month: October—Opal

With its amazing display of colors and kaleidoscopic patterns, opal is a unique and spectacular gemstone. They're stunning as rings, pendants, necklaces, and any other jewelry style you can think of! As one of the two birthstones representing October, and the gifting gemstone for 14th wedding anniversaries, there is more to opal than one might think. If you have ever wondered what makes opal special beyond its eye-catching colors, keep reading!

Each opal has its own uniqueness, but many might not know how they developed. Seasonal rains soaked the parched Outback in Australia, carrying silica deposits underground into cracks between layers of rock. When the water evaporated, these deposits formed opal. Sometimes, silica seeped into spaces around wood, seashells, and skeletons, resulting in opalized fossils.

About 95% of opal comes from Australia, however, a similar mineral has also been found on the red planet, Mars! According to NASA, the Martian rocks are light-toned and appear cream-colored, containing a hydrated mineral similar to opal.

For centuries, opals have been the star of many legends, including Greek mythology! Ancient Greeks believed that opal came from the tears of Zeus, the god of lightning, after winning a battle against the Titans. His joyful tears turned into opal when they landed upon Earth.

As magical as opals are, they can be fragile and require special care. Because opals are composed of five to 10 percent water, they will deteriorate over time as they dry out. As they dry, they turn milky, losing their beautiful layers of color, and may crack. It's important to store them in cool, moist places, minimizing exposure to heat and dry conditions.

From www.AmericanGemSociety



WHERE THERE'S HOPE...

At the beginning of this month, I had the opportunity to join an old friend while she was in Washington DC on business. There was no hesitation in my YES, having not seen her in three years, and not ever having seen DC!!

There *is* SO much to see and I walked at least 5 miles one day (in the rain no less!), but it was well worth it. Of course, one of my MUST SEE exhibits was the Gem and Mineral Hall at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum.

I arrived later in the afternoon and was at first chagrined that I was sharing the space with a group of High School students.



Yes, it made for a rather noisy, crowded experience, but then there was that a moment when three boys enthusiastically exclaimed in unison over the Cat's Eye Sapphires, one of them bumping his head on the exhibit window as they rushed toward it. It was priceless to see members of today's youth have this kind of excitement over something natural and displayed so simply, and well, not virtual, loud or on Tik-tok!

I was overwhelmed by the size of the exhibit! I sadly, ran out of energy to explore it about two thirds of the way in. But what I saw amazed and thrilled me nonetheless.

One “shake my head” moment—when I was waiting to get a photo of the legendary Hope Diamond, I heard a young man say “is THIS what all the hype is about?” Oh my! I so wanted to ask him how often he saw 48 carat diamonds in his day to day life, let alone blue, exquisitely perfect ones! 🙄



A gorgeous piece of Variscite, above a hunk of Wulfenite



Large display of Wulfenite



This meteorite was titled “From Outer Space to Arizona”



Large specimens of Lazurite

Helpful Links:

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: <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. . .

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.



Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

CABBING: Thursdays 12 to 4pm Larry Murray (727) 686-1314 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. *[the club no longer has a Post Office box, and now receives mail at this location, EXCEPT for dues, which should be mailed to Donna Sapp, Membership Committee Chair) 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 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