

# ROCK-A-GRAM



November 2023

Volume 84

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## Happy Rocks-giving!

### Reminders:

Now is the time to renew memberships!

Anyone who has not renewed their yearly membership will be removed from the club roster and will need to reapply for membership.

### Free rocks!

On Saturday the 18th (two days after the general meeting) the club is offering our members a chance at some free rocks!

There will be large rocks, small rocks, garden rocks.. Perhaps even some treasures!

If you are interested, drop by the club at 9:30 AM and bring your own buckets or containers to collect them!

## President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving!

We only have one day a year set aside to be thankful. Thinking about the things we are glad to have in our lives is something we could benefit from doing every day. Research has shown that it's good for you mentally and physically. Those pilgrims really were on to something.

Hope you all have a great holiday.

Pat



## Meetings

General meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April, 7:00 pm, at our clubhouse, 4619 69th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33709. The public is cordially invited to attend these membership meetings.

December and May meetings are special, and as such, the time and place of meeting will be announced ahead of time in a bulletin.

### **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, Nov. 16th

This meeting will feature a DVD presentation on rocks in the Smithsonian museum.



## Random Rock Facts!

- Copper gives **malachite** its beautiful green color. Malachite was used for green pigment in paints from the distant past up until around the 1800s.
- **Lapis Lazuli** was mined as far back as 7,000 BCE and was particularly beloved by the Indus Valley civilization.
- A single gram of **gold** can be beaten into an 11 square foot sheet. Gold leaf can be beaten until it turns semi-transparent.
- Some of the largest crystals ever found were comprised of **selenite**. Located in the Naica Mine's Cave of the Crystals, the largest specimen found was 39 feet long and weighed 55 tons.



- **Peridot** is found both on Earth and in space. In 2005, the Stardust Space Probe returned to Earth covered in comet dust that contained peridot particles.
- **Amethyst** comes from the Greek word amethystos, which means "not intoxicated." This name was given to the stone because it was believed to protect its wearer from intoxication. Today, amethyst is still considered a symbol of sobriety and moderation.
- **Jasper** is traceable to all ancient peoples and civilizations. Worn by shamans, priests and kings, it was considered sacred and a powerful protection stone.
- **Tanzanite** was given its name by Tiffany and Co. who named it after Tanzania, the country in which it was discovered. The scientific name of "blue-violet zoisite" was not thought to be sufficiently consumer friendly by Tiffany's marketing.



SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

**SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, October 5th, 2023

Meeting called to order by Shamus Walker at 7.04 pm.

Shamus led the pledge of allegiance, then introduced the new Board Members and gave a progress report on the maintenance committee.

Tom McNaughton gave a report on the show committee. He needs some information on printing the show card mailers and also a list of the other clubs etc. that we send information about the show to.

Sue Hazelden gave a report on some rocks need for the grab bags, if anyone has them. Rose quartz, barite, and serpentine. Also gave information on name tag badges.

Shamus introduced some visitors.

Sandra, the membership chairperson, gave information that Isil & Yaver Sever have donated a beautiful rock specimen to the club this evening.

A report was given by the treasurer, Barbara Kirchheimer.

There was a discussion on William Holland, the lapidary school in north Georgia.

Shamus announced that his planned field trip to Georgia Hog Mine, has been cancelled. He is talking about a field trip to New York in June, to a new deposit of Herkimer diamonds with very large skeletal crystals. The mine has free camping.

Don Schlough modeled a tee shirt with the club's logo on it & gave the name of the person printing it. A shirt costs approx. \$15.00

The meeting was adjourned at 7.25 pm. & a show-and-tell followed.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Hazelden.



## SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

### OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING (Part 1)

Thursday, October 21, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Club President, Pat Davis.

#### Reports of Officers

Secretary There was no report given.

Treasurer A report was given by Treasurer, Barbara Hirschheimer.

#### Reports of Committee Chairs

Show — Show chair, Tom McKnaughton passed out printed invitations for the 2024 show to the members present at the meeting, so they could pass them around to get the word out. Tom also discussed sending out an email (I received mine 10-11-23) with a link to the sign-up sheet for duties at the 2024 show.

Activities — Joann Knoss, activities chairperson, has requested space to be set up somewhere in the club house area for anything pertaining to activities.

New Membership — A huge SGAMS welcome to the 6 new members that were introduced at this October meeting.

**Old Business** — Sue Hazelden reminded all present the importance of having our name badges, especially to wear at the show. If you don't have a name badge, please contact Sue, her number is on the website, Board of Directors section. She will then get a badge made for you; the cost is \$3:50.

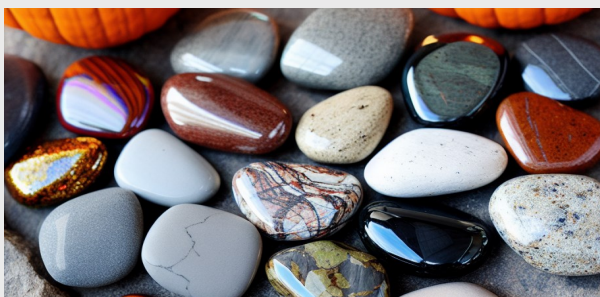
**New Business** — Otis and Linda Taylor discussed the need to go after the youth with Educational Grant Projects and new more youth-friendly social media outlets such as YouTube and TikTok, a thanks to Allison and Caleb who have offered to investigate that.

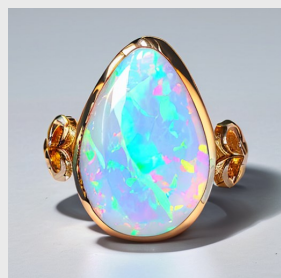
Caleb and Allison also wanted to look into rock hounding trips in this state or beyond to set up for the future. JoAnn Knoss, our activities chairperson has brought that subject up before as well.

A new membership chairperson will be needed to handle getting the fees, accepting applications, and some record keeping. Then to pass the fees on to Barbara Kirchheimer for bookkeeping.

Talked about as well was a request for club members to donate at least two pieces for the club table or the silent auction at the 2024 show. Was talked about setting a minimum cost of \$5.00 per each donation please.

Part 2 on next page





SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

## OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING (Part 2)

Thursday, October 21, 2023

**Presentations** — Three great presentations were given tonight for the classes that we are offered as members of this club.

Larry Murray gave a very informative talk about our Cabbing Class, and just what goes on there and what is offered in that class. Not only making cabochons for jewelry and rock polishing for specimen rocks but cutting the rocks as well. The class is held on Thursdays and well attended.

Dave Watson gave a talk about his faceting class which is the art of cutting and polishing angled faces on a gemstone, the student (there is 1 student at a time) will cut and polish one round brilliant stone. Dave also talked about his wire wrapping class, which includes a basic class that allows you to learn how to measure the area to be wrapped, wires used, and wrapping a stone.

Dave Watson also filled in for Joe Cooper with a talk about the Wax casting class offered. The class involves investing sprued trees in preparation for the burnout process and then melting and pouring into the remaining cavity to produce the cast pieces.

Finishing of the cast pieces is minimal, and participants are encouraged to attend the silversmithing lab if they would like help in this last stage.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan Clark, Recording Secretary





## SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

### OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 5th, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm in the SGAMS clubhouse by President, Pat Davis.

Board members present were, Shamus Walker, Don Schlough, and Susan Clark. Those present via telephone were Karen Kulas and Debbie Hamilton.

The board discussed the need to have a board member liaison for each committee. Committee chairs are still expected to make their reports to the board and at general meetings. The liaison role was conceived to provide a board contact for each committee whether or not the committee chair was on the board.

The board members chosen so far will be:  
Debbie Hamilton — Equipment  
Pat Davis — Holiday Dinners and Education  
Karen Kulas — Membership  
Susan Clark — Show Committee.

The membership chair position is still open.

Building committee reported that the fire extinguishers have been recertified.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. Motion by Shamus Walker, seconded by Karen Kulas.

Submitted by:  
Susan Clark, Recording Secretary





## SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

### NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING (Part 1)

Thursday, November 2nd, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm in the SGAMS clubhouse by President, Pat Davis.

Other board members present were, Karen Kulas, Sue Hazelden, Shamus Walker, Don Schlough, JoAnn Knoss, Tom McNaughton, and Susan Clark.

Since the holiday season coming up fast, Joann Knoss investigated options and brought up having this year's Christmas Dinner at Millers Ale House at Seminole Mall, it is slated for Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 6:00pm. This notion was approved and seconded.

The activities committee discussed the further need to work on getting to schools with presentations. Also needed is an area in the club house to store the educational supplies.

Tom McNaughton, chair of the show committee, set up the date for the November show meeting, (it will be on Nov. 9) to discuss food served during the show, the number of dealers, set up times to work on grab bags, signs, and other much needed information to help keep the show running smoothly.

Building committee brought up the need to ask members at the general meeting for volunteer help with the overall look to the club house and grounds. The club building and yard clean-up is to be scheduled. The club house beautifying will also involve some carpentry work and an exterior paint job. The color beige and a dark accent color was discussed for the exterior.

Karen Kulas suggested having photos taken at any activities coming up, for the Rock-a-Gram so we can acknowledge and put faces to names.

Part 2 continued on next page





## SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

### NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING (Part 2)

Thursday, November 2nd, 2023

#### NEW BUSINESS

Also discussed, everyone on the board committee needs to have a current membership roster so that if any member of the club wants to get ahold of another member, they can get contact information by contacting a board member who is listed in the newsletter. Pat Davis and Karen Kulas will be setting up a space on Workplace to store information for the club and its members.

This will help with the club officers and board members to find information easier and help with running club matters smoother.

Karen Kulas will need all registration dues in by November 31, 2023.

Sue Hazelden suggested asking the members if they wanted to set up a time to look at and take certain rocks from the back yard that aren't wanted anymore. Date and time to come at the general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Motion by Shamus Walker, seconded by Susan Clark.

Submitted by:  
Susan Clark,  
Recording Secretary



# Class Schedules & Info

## Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only

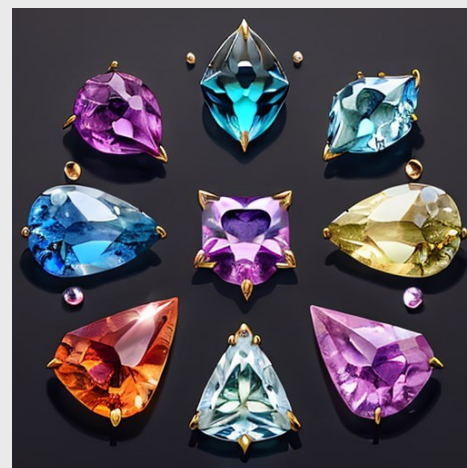
### **CABBING, Workshop & Instruction:** Thursdays 12 to 4pm

Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive a text request by Tuesday Evening.

Saturday Cab Shop hours are suspended until further notice.

In cabbing, participants will learn the basics of cutting, forming, and polishing a simple cabochon.



### **FACETING/WIRE WRAPPING:** Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm

Dave Watson 727-541-2917 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Faceting is the art of cutting and polishing angled faces on a gemstone; this class is at a cost of \$65.00 and the student will cut and polish one round brilliant stone.

Wire wrapping basic class allows you to set precious and semi-precious gemstones into simple metal frameworks made out of copper, silver, gold, and other materials.

### **SILVERSMITHING:** Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Silversmithing class is to help with foundational silversmithing skills and finishing suitable for the novice or those with limited experience.

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

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

Wax casting is a \$50.00 class which includes one 3 inch flask, in two sessions, which involve investing spruced trees in preparation for the burnout process and then melting and pouring into the remaining cavity to produce the cast pieces. Finishing of the cast pieces is minimal and participants are encouraged to attend the silversmithing lab if they would like help in this last stage.

## Donations Needed!

Hello!!

If you were at the meeting, you heard us asking for a couple donations. For the past few years we have been saving the rocks that didn't sell and putting them out again. A lot of the rocks we have been offering at the auction and the club table are not the most attractive items that we have available. There are a lot of rocks that look like rocks to the average person walking by. We are asking for any items (two) that you may have that sparkle or have some color or may be of interest to the general public.



This is our opportunity to make some money for the club and maintenance of the clubhouse. Please take this time to look for a couple items that you may have doubles of or something in the back of your closet that would sell for \$5 or more. There are about 400 auction items needed and a whole row of club tables that we need to fill up to make some sales!!

Thank you,

Tom McNaughton

Show Chairman

727-422-6722



# Be aware of scams!

We have had reports of some of our club members being reached out to by scammers. These scammers are pretending to be club members or leaders and are asking for gift cards. We want to emphasize that no SGAMS member will ever ask you for gift cards.

## Be aware of these 4 common scams

### "I thought it was someone from the bank!"

Scammers are professional imposters. They'll pretend to be a relative, a utility company or even Bank of America.

### "They said I had an overdue bill."

Scammers want to make you panic and overreact without thinking. A loved one in trouble, a late bill or an amazing deal are all tactics to throw you off.

### "She needed my account info right away."

Scammers will want your money fast. They'll tell you to send funds immediately, often via wire transfer or payment apps, where the money is unlikely to be recovered.

### "He was so friendly."

Scammers often use social media to deceive. They'll try to befriend you, strike up a relationship, then hit you with exclusive "insider" deals and get-rich-quick schemes.

Please be aware of these scammers.

Do not send them gift cards or money.

Please reach out to us and inform us if you receive an email along these lines.

Included are some tips for scams in general. Be safe, be smart!

**Buying a gift card to pay someone? Stop!**  
**It's a scam.**

Gift cards are for gifts, not payments.



**HANG UP ON  
Gift Card  
Scams**



Report gift card scams at:

**ReportFraud.ftc.gov**

For more information, visit:

**Ftc.gov/giftcards**



FEDERAL TRADE  
COMMISSION



## Closing Notes & Info

This is the official newsletter of the **SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.**, located at 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.

**Dues:** \$20.00 for a single person or \$30.00 for a couple/family; paid annually and collected each September.

**Benefits:** Our club offers shop time to its members at a cost of \$3.00 per hour or any part of the hour. Classes are open-shop with a monitor to provide assistance as needed.

### Handling Donations:

Donors are encouraged to bring their donations to the clubhouse during board meetings (first Thursday of each month, September through May), or to membership meetings (third Thursday of the month, September through May).

Please do not leave unidentified items at the clubhouse at other times.

Julia Larson is the point person for donations and will be available following each of these meetings to accept and record donor and donation information. Donors can contact Julia at: [jmlsgams22@gmail.com](mailto:jmlsgams22@gmail.com), or 727-410-3781. If calling, please leave your name and number in order to return the call.



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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Spouse's Name

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**WHAT TIME AND TALENTS CAN YOU DONATE TO THE CLUB?** (for example: retired; lapidary skills; plumbing; grant-writer, machinist, etc. ) :  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Joining the Club (Shared, Interest, Education, Field Trips, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

What other Gem clubs are you (or have you been) a member? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SGAMS** and mail to:

Barbara Kirchheimer, 6190 62nd Ave N #2, Pinellas Park, FL 33781 revised 11/11/22

Dues Paid? \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Accepted to Club

Privacy Policy: SGAMS will never sell, trade nor share your personal information received here in any manner and will always protect it and your privacy. Occasionally you will be emailed well vetted offers, publications, or bulletins of interest and in relation to our club, this hobby and similar activities. No officer or member of this club will ever email or text you for money or gift cards, etc., and any such correspondence you receive you should not open, or answer, but report as spam and contact SGAMS with your concerns.

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC [SGAMS]  
DONATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms

YOUR NAME (PRINTED)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

EMAIL

( )

( )

PHONE NUMBER ACCEPTS TEXT? Y N

ALTERNATE PHONE #

Please provide a description of each item you are donating, and a good faith estimate of its value (required). See note below regarding sales.

#	Description	Valued @
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$

Thank you for your generous donation, as noted above, to be sold or auctioned off for fund-raising. We did not provide any goods or

services in exchange for this contribution. SGAMS is recognized as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law [generally speaking when a single item is valued at \$250 or greater, please consult a Tax Advisor for the best advice]

Signature

Date

ev 12/1/2022



# Sponsors



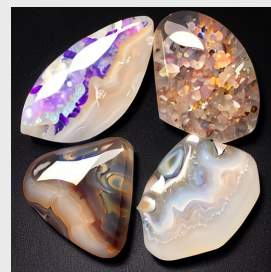
We thank our advertisers for their support and encourage membership to patronize them.

**JAY'S TREASURES**  
**460 E. LEMON ST.**  
**TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689**  
**813-359-7025**





# Links



**Our Website:** [www.sgams.com](http://www.sgams.com)

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063572437643>

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/564631203904814>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies	<a href="https://www.amfed.org/">https://www.amfed.org/</a>
American Lands Access Association	<a href="http://www.amlands.org/">http://www.amlands.org/</a>
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies	<a href="https://www.southeastfed.org/">https://www.southeastfed.org/</a>
National Parks Foundation	<a href="https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks">https://www.nationalparks.org/explore/parks</a>
Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society	<a href="https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/">https://www.canaveral-mgs.com/</a>
Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society	<a href="https://cfmgs.org/">https://cfmgs.org/</a>
Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society	<a href="http://www.bonevalley.net/">http://www.bonevalley.net/</a>
Tampa Bay Fossil Club	<a href="https://tampabayfossilclub.com/">https://tampabayfossilclub.com/</a>
Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club	<a href="https://tampabayrockclub.org/">https://tampabayrockclub.org/</a>
Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County	<a href="https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/">https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/</a>
Geology, Rocks, Minerals, Volcano, etc information	<a href="https://geology.com/">https://geology.com/</a>

# Next Show: 2024

We hope you will all come join us!

53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SHOW

## SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

at the **LARGO EVENT CENTER** (formerly Minnreg Hall)  
6340 126th Avenue N, Largo FL

**MARCH 1, 2, 3, 2024**

**Friday, Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm • Sunday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm**

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

### ADMISSION

**Donations: \$6.00/Adult 3 day pass • Children under 12 FREE**

**\$1.00 off admission with this card (limit one per person)**

**Free Parking • Food Service on Site**

