

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone is having a lovely beginning of the Fall season.

We are going forward with having an in-person general meeting for October. We do request that attendees wear masks and will keep safety in mind. We are hoping to see everyone, although we understand that some may not feel comfortable with being in a group yet.

Since it has been way too long since we have been able to meet in person, we will continue with the traditional first meeting after summer break as a 'Show-and-Tell' and/or 'What we did during the break' theme.

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

P.S. We hold our Board of Directors Meetings on the first Thursday of the month from September through May. All members are welcome to join. The past few meetings have been done via Zoom and, I believe we will continue with that. Anyone who would like to join may send me an email to request the link.

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

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SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

GENERAL MEETING AND INSTALLATION MINUTES

MAY 20, 2021

The general meeting was held in the back yard of the clubhouse because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those attending were invited to bring sandwiches; drinks were provided by the club.

Outgoing president Julia Larson introduced incoming officers, who were sworn in by Sue Hazelden. New officers who were not in attendance were represented by other attendees. Officers for the 2021-22 year are: President, Kelly Nolen; Vice President, Rick Bunton; Treasurer, Pat Church; Recording Secretary, Julia Larson; Corresponding Secretary, Susan Biel; Three-year Director, Chandra McBride; Two-year Director, Breta McGuire; One-year Directors, Pat Davis and Sherry Staley.

Tentative plans for the 2022 show plans were discussed.

No other business was conducted.

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SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm on Zoom. Board members attending: Kelly Nolen, President; Susan Biel, Julia Larson, Pat Church, Pat Davis, Sherry Staley. Also attending, Joe Cooper.

The following items were on the agenda: Selection of a new Vice President; 2022 show; the 2021-22 budget; termite situation at the clubhouse; door codes and keys; garbage pickup; equipment; painting the trim on the clubhouse.

Kelly indicated her preference to delay the Vice President issue until she gets back in town in a week or so. She wants to get a formal resignation from Rick, which she will request via email.

Sherry is the new Dealer Chair. Pat Davis has assisted her in getting the contracts out; responses and deposits are coming in. There was discussion about the silent auction and gem mining. It doesn't seem likely we will have the gem mining this year.

Pat Church emailed the budget to the Board. A motion to accept was made and seconded. The budget was passed unanimously with no further discussion.

The clubhouse will be tented for termites in January. All foodstuffs will be discarded prior to the tenting, except for unopened canned soft drinks.

Pat Davis is working with Chandra McBride to familiarize her with the cabbage equipment. Kelly indicated she also wants to learn more about the equipment when she returns.

Entry codes for the doors remain unchanged. Only those who need access have the codes. There was discussion about who might have keys. So far, no one seems to have them or know who does.

There is a pile of rotted termite-infested wood that needs to go to the dump, along with a number of tree branches. Pickup by the city is questionable. Julia suggested someone she knows might be willing to do this. [Later note: this has been arranged; pickup should be sometime in the coming week. A friend of Pat Church, Dave Levy, worked over the weekend to get things ready for pickup. Dave joined the club as a new member.]

Kelly indicated she is willing to work on the painting when she returns.

The board agreed to hold the October general meeting AT THE CLUBHOUSE.

The board meeting was adjourned when Zoom access was terminated.

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.

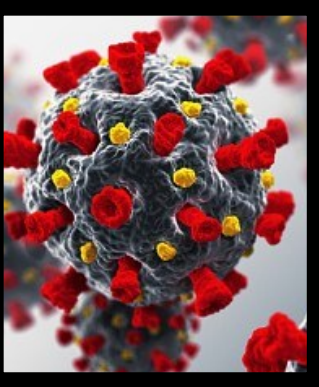
And, only members in good standing (dues paid) are able to take classes, workshops or use the clubhouse. Be sure to have your membership card on you for proof.

Do You See What I See???

Quartz With Realgar, Orpiment and
Sphalerite From The Paloma Mine



COVID Virus



HEART LIKE A ROCK!



ROCKHOUND?



ALIEN!!

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.

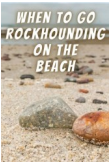
As magical as opals are, they can be fragile and require special care. Because opals are composed of five to 10 percent water, they will deteriorate over time as they dry out. As they dry, they turn milky, losing their beautiful layers of color, and may crack. It's important to store them in cool, moist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

From www.AmericanGemSociety



FUN FACTS!!

A great website that I discovered is called “Rock Seekers” and you can sign up to receive interesting articles by email. Here are some articles on their website (follow the link)



<<< <https://www.rockseeker.com/collecting-rocks-on-ocean-beaches/>

An interactive map of where to go rockhounding by State: >>>

<https://www.rockseeker.com/rockhounding-map/>



<<< Rockhounding Gear: <https://www.rockseeker.com/recommended-gear/>



And some interesting articles on Rocks and Minerals: <https://www.rockseeker.com/category/rocks-and-precious-stones/>

[illegible]

Opal: Ultimate Guide To Collecting Opal (What It Is and How To Find It!)

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBER LINDA JONES!!



Sheffield Mine

October 7 at 8:48 AM · 🌐

HONKER ALERT...

.Linda Jean Jones found this 70carat Ruby Saturday. Congratulations
♦ we appreciate you !

Linda and Larry Jones were on their amazing travels again this year, and Linda, shown here on Facebook, found this 70 Carat “honker” of a Ruby at Sheffield Mine, in Franklin, NC.

Larry also found a cuttable stone! Hopefully he will share pics of his results with us too.



Not to outdo Linda, but check out this crystal found in Arkansas! Said to be worth \$4 million! But, what do you DO with it?

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