



October 2022

Volume 73 No. 1 Page 1

Dear SGAMS Members,

It was exciting to see such a good turn out to the first meeting of the year in September! Great to see some familiar plus several new faces—and I hope to see more of both at our next meetings!

At this upcoming meeting on the 20th, I will be handing out our revised Application. For those who have not yet paid their dues for this year, this will be your opportunity—but for those who have, this is a long overdue update of information. This is to assure that we have the most up to date contact information AND we are also looking to renew our list of all of the Talents, Skills and Experience that you have that can help to enrich SGAMS!

I am including a copy of the revised application in this newsletter. You may want to print it and fill it out in advance of the meeting, or should you not be able to attend, mail it to Donna. If you are only updating your information, please check that box and date the form.

I will also be beating the drum already for help with our Show—yes, it “isn’t” until March, but so much needs to be done in advance and I will not let us try to stuff 3 months of work into 30 days again this year! Because we are going to—

Plan ahead

Best regards,

Susan Biel

Susan Biel

President, SGAMS

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MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE—New CONTACT information:

SGAMS CORRESPONDENCE THROUGH EMAIL BLASTS will now come from PAT DAVIS
via: patd.sgams@gmail.com

SET THIS AS A CONTACT IN YOUR EMAIL SO YOU DON'T MISS ANYTHING!

~~~~~

**Breta McGuire is now our Annual Show Deal Chair ! Her email contact for the show is: [sgamsdeal-erchair@gmail.com](mailto:sgamsdeal-erchair@gmail.com) and the phone contact is: (727) 344-9676.**

**\*\*\*\*GUEST SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER 20TH MEETING\*\*\*\***

PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND THE GENERAL MEETING THIS

COMING THURSDAY TO ENJOY OUR GUEST SPEAKER,

**MS. LEONA CHAPMAN FELDHAUSEN**

**WHO WILL DO A PRESENTATION ON AMBER**

**Ms. Leona is well known from her many years as an active member of the Pinellas Geological Society of Largo and the presentations she has held at Rock, Gem, Mineral and Geological Societies throughout Florida.**

## Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2022-23

| TITLE                          | NAME            | EMAIL                                                                      | PHONE          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| PRESIDENT                      | SUSAN BIEL      | <a href="mailto:PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM">PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM</a>         | (315) 380-7037 |
| VICE PRESIDENT                 | KAREN KULAS     |                                                                            |                |
| RECORDING SECRETARY            | JULIA LARSON    |                                                                            |                |
| CORRESPONDING SECRETARY        | PAT DAVIS       | <a href="mailto:PATD.SGAMS@GMAIL.COM">PATD.SGAMS@GMAIL.COM</a>             | (727) 323-2147 |
| TREASURER                      | PATRICIA CHURCH | <a href="mailto:PACHURCH@GMAIL.COM">PACHURCH@GMAIL.COM</a>                 |                |
| 3 YEAR DIRECTOR                | DEBBIE HAMILTON |                                                                            |                |
| 2 YEAR DIRECTOR                | SHAMUS WALKER   |                                                                            |                |
| 1 YEAR DIRECTOR                | RETA MCGUIRE    |                                                                            |                |
| 1 YEAR DIRECTOR                | KELLY NOLEN     |                                                                            |                |
| <u>COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS:</u>  |                 |                                                                            |                |
| ANNUAL SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIR:   | BILL SCHMIDT    | <a href="mailto:SGAMSGEMSHOW@GMAIL.COM">SGAMSGEMSHOW@GMAIL.COM</a>         |                |
| ANNUAL SHOW VENDOR CHAIR:      | BRETA MCGUIRE   | <a href="mailto:SGAMSDEALERCHAIR@GMAIL.COM">SGAMSDEALERCHAIR@GMAIL.COM</a> | (727) 344-9676 |
| HOLIDAY & ANNUAL DINNER CHAIR: | JOANN KNOSS     | <a href="mailto:JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM">JKNOSS@YAHOO.COM</a>                     | (727) 238-8345 |
| BUILDING/EQUIPMENT:            | BILL SCHMIDT    |                                                                            |                |
| EDUCATION COMMITTEE:           | TBD             |                                                                            |                |
| MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:          | DONNA SAPP      | <a href="mailto:DSAPP43@YAHOO.COM">DSAPP43@YAHOO.COM</a>                   | (727) 420-0383 |
| PROGRAM COMMITTEE:             | KAREN KULAS     |                                                                            |                |
| ROCK-A-GRAM EDITOR:            | SUSAN BIEL      | <a href="mailto:PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM">PEECHIKEENE8@GMAIL.COM</a>         | (315) 380-7037 |
| WEBMASTER:                     | DEBRA BREMER    | <a href="mailto:BREMERSLAPIDARY@YAHOO.COM">BREMERSLAPIDARY@YAHOO.COM</a>   | (727) 534-0590 |

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY INC.

BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2022



The meeting was called to order at 802 pm. Attending at the clubhouse were Susan Biel, Breta McGuire, Pat Church, Pat Davis and Shamus Walker. Attending by phone were Kelly Nolen, Karen Kulas and Debbie Hamilton. Also attending was Donna Sapp, membership chair.

Donna presented a revised membership application. Members suggested a number of further revisions. After discussion Susan said she would add the additional revisions to the form and email it to the board for a final check before sending it for inclusion in the club web site. There was additional discussion regarding asking members to update their application forms to note demographic changes or having everyone complete a new application each time dues are paid. These ideas will be presented at the general meeting.

Maintenance of clubhouse grounds was discussed at length. Susan, Pat Church and Tom McNaughton cleaned the front yard and parking area of debris following Hurricane Ian; the back yard still needs to be cleaned. Cleanup dates were scheduled for October 15 and 16 from 9 am to noon. A regular maintenance schedule needs to be established and members enlisted to do this. Susan noted that Tom also installed a new faucet assembly in the kitchen sink.

The building still needs considerable exterior repair. Installing vinyl siding is a possibility. The issue was tabled until bids are obtained.

Breta reported on dealer sign-up for the show. Two dealers have indicated they will not be able to participate in the 2023 show; one will definitely return in 2024. For some time now the board has been seeking someone to serve as an assistant show chair to help Bill Schmidt. To date there has been no response from the membership. This remains an urgent need.

Karen reported on programs for the remainder of the year, both planned and under discussion.

Pat Church gave the treasurer's report; the club remains solvent.

The meeting was adjourned at 810 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Biel at 7:00 p.m.

The Board Minutes as published in the Rock-A-Gram on 9/11/22 were approved as Published.

Treasurer Pat Church read her report; Report to be filed for Audit.

Committee Reports:

Joann Knoss was introduced and thanked for the lovely Installation Dinner in May.

Show Dealer Chair Breta McGuire was introduced and reported that contracts were sent out to last year's show vendors and so far seven have responded. The deposits are due the 1<sup>st</sup> of December.

Show Chair Bill Schmidt was not able to attend, but Susan reported that he had met with her, Pat Davis and Breta to share information on the show calendar and this year we will be working on preparations earlier.

Bill also not present to report at Facilities Committee Chair, but Larry Murray stated that he and Bill have been discussing the part being fixed to get the big saw up and running.

Facilities: Susan outlined the work being done regarding tree trimming, exterior repairs and the need for a Yard Work Day and then a Shed & Shelf Organizing Day leading up to a Yard Sale and Picnic. Volunteers will be sought for these days in future email blasts.

The meeting was adjourned and the Program of Show and Tell commenced.

Notes by President, Susan Biel in absentia for Julia Larson

## Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society

### Application for Membership

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

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

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

Check and date here if this is an update of information only ☐      /      /

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

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

Are you a year-round resident?      YES      NO

**WHAT TIME, TALENTS OR EXPERIENCE CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB?**

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:** I understand that for my/our application to be considered for approval, one or more areas below must be checked.

- ☐ A. Serve on a committee
- ☐ B. Assist VP with monthly membership meeting program
- ☐ C. Assist with Field Trips
- ☐ D. Assist at annual show: ticket booth/information table
- ☐ E. Assist with preparations for the annual show
- ☐ G. Assist at annual show, as needed
- ☐ H. Serve as a club officer, board member
- ☐ I. Contribute to the newsletter
- ☐ J. Assist with maintenance & cleanup of clubhouse
- ☐ K. Work as a club instructor or moderator

Use of the club facilities is a privilege of membership in SGAMS. Please be prepared to present your current membership card when you come in to use the shop or take a class.

Please make checks payable to: SGAMS - and mail to:  
Donna Sapp, 3200 74<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
[Dues are payable annually in September]

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

|                     |           |                       |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Membership Chairman | Treasurer | Date Accepted to Club |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|

REVISÉ 10/2022

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 it as spam and contact [SGAMS2020@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SGAMS2020@GMAIL.COM) with any concerns you may have.



## MANY THANKS TO THE YARD CLEAN-UP CREWS!!

The clean up from the aftermath of Hurricane Ian at the clubhouse took place over two weekends: First, Patricia Church, Tom McNaughton and I tackled the front yard and parking lot, and filled 6 bags and 4 large piles of brush. **AND HUGE THANKS TO TOM FOR INSTALLING A NEW KITCHEN FAUCET after all the work of cleaning up the yard!!**

Then October 15th, Tom, Patricia and I were joined by Pat Davis and Sue Hazelden to tackle the back yard—just getting the back gate open was an ordeal of tripping over branches! We toiled from 9:00 a.m. until almost noon, this time filling well over 10 bags and half as many piles of bundled brush. Here are some photos, courtesy of Pat Davis. MANY, MANY thanks to the Hands Who Helped!!



Patricia Church came prepared!



Discussing plan of action with Sue Hazelden and Tom McNaughton



Tom bundled the branches, as I cut them up.

## REGARDING DONATIONS:

~~~ And until we get a few clean-up days with the sheds and outdoor shelf storage under way, I would like to ask that donations be suspended. We need to clear out some stuff to make room and organize to know what we have on hand before we take in any more.

AND

~~~ When we start taking donations again, I will have a clipboard with a form on the table to the right of the television. The form to fill out will be simple, but **VERY NECESSARY**—giving us a brief description of what you are dropping off and please—place it with your items.

There are some lovely items already in our donation drawers that I have no idea what they are and who they are from. I will be passing around that clipboard at the September 15th meeting, so if you already donated items, I will be asking you for that information.

## READER'S HELP CORNER:

Here is a new section of the Rock-A-Gram, for members to pose questions and other members to help with answers. Nancy Hamisak wrote:

I have some rock questions.

- 1) I'm cleaning some to use for my gem trees I'm making. I assume bleach will not hurt them? That is what my friend told me she does. **Bleach could interact with some stones so it was not suggested as a safe cleaning agent. See #2**
2. Can I use oil to put on the natural rocks to bring out colors.. or what would you suggest! Some are pretty dull unpolished. **The surprise answer here was TOOTHPASTE! Heartily recommended by several members. Also, when you are at the next meeting, seek out Sandra Daum and Breta McGuire who also had some good suggestions.**

FROM ROCKERSEEKER.COM, HERE IS AN APPROPRIATE FOLLOW UP ARTICLE:



### HOW TO CLEAN QUARTZ (STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS)

[Https://www.rockseeker.com/how-to-clean-quartz-crystals/](https://www.rockseeker.com/how-to-clean-quartz-crystals/)

Photo from rockseeker.com and associated article

This is an excellent website! The website is packed with gorgeous photos, lapidary tips, rock-hounding locations, equipment suggestions, information on fossils, and fun articles like this one:

### 15 Epic Parking Lot Finds! (Rocks and Minerals Found in Local Parking Lots)

<https://www.rockseeker.com/parking-lot-finds/>



## MORE GEMS ON THE INTERNET:

Last Month I introduced ROCKSEEKER.COM (who now offers an app for \$3/mo to access the site and information, ad free), and GEOLOGYIN.COM (that I still cannot connect to on Chrome, but it is fine if you use Firefox as your browser).

Here is another great “gem” : [ROCKHOUNDERESOURCE.COM](http://ROCKHOUNDERESOURCE.COM) This website has one of the better managed rock hounding lists. The information he provides is: A general overview of rockhounding in the state ; the best places to rockhound ; Interactive maps with rockhounding sites ; Descriptions of rockhounding sites with GPS coordinates ; Information on where to find popular specimens and General rockhounding laws and links to helpful resources

There is both an interactive map and alphabetically listed links. Each page has the Location and what rocks & minerals are to be found with the hyperlinks going to the GPS Coordinates on a google map (which is pretty handy if you access it by smartphone).

The website also has some good information on Lapidary & Tumbling, and under the header of COOL INFO he has an article on how to diminish the noise of a tumbler by 75%!

Another great site that is more interactive is:

### LAPIDARYFORUM.NET

You have to sign up and be accepted after a “SPAM” check, but you will find this a forum jam-packed with information and subject matter to please anyone! Just to name a few:

Buy/Sell/Trade; Photography Tips; Rockhounding Group Outings; Ancient Lapidary History; Faceting’ Tumbling; Tutorials; Beading; Wirewrapping; Chainmaille; Mineral Specimens; Fossils; Glass blowing & fusing; fixing lapidary equipment and other tool talk; Safety; Shows, Auctions and Estates...and more!

Yes, there are always those “Forum Fanatics” within who treat it like they own it, but overall, I found it a receptive and interesting forum. I used this forum for identifying several items, to ask questions when purchasing my grinding/polishing cab machine, plus joined in a few of the cabochon contests.





## SMILE with

**A GREAT WAY TO SHOP AND HELP SGAMS AT THE SAME TIME!!**

**ARE YOU AN AMAZON PRIME MEMBER? DO YOU SHOP OFTEN USING AMAZON.COM?**

SGAMS is an approved non-profit organization for Amazon Smile!

That means that when you place an order on Amazon the club gets a small percentage of your purchase price. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice....SGAMS!

Start your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You can even start shopping in the regular Amazon website, then sign into smile. Amazon.com and it will pick up right where you were!

**FAQS: *Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?***

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

***How do I select SGAMS to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?***

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com], you need to select:

**SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY in the drop down menu.**

— as your chosen non profit to receive donations from your eligible purchases, before you begin shopping.

Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

***Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?***

Sorry, donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

**FOLLOW THESE LINKS TO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:**

**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** [www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org)

**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)

**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>

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**SGAMS OFFERINGS FOR MEMBERS —**

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.

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

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

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 wish help in this last stage.

SEE PAGE 11 FOR CLASS SCHEDULING AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE INSTRUCTORS.

**WE THANK OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO VISIT AND PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.**





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 to create Rings, Earrings, Bracelets, Necklaces,  
 Chain Maille, Pendants, Charms and Keyrings.

### **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](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)

## **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](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