

September 2021

Volume 63, No. 1 Page 1

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Everyone,

I am very happy to let everyone know that we are moving forward with our plans for our much anticipated Show in March.

Since we are still being affected by Covid, we have decided it was best to not have our General Meeting in September.

We wish a full and speedy recovery to anyone who has become ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

I would like to send my sincere thanks to everyone who has kept SGAMS going through these rough times.

We are looking forward to things getting back to normal and hope to see everyone in October.

Thank you all and Rock On,

Kelly Nolen

## Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2021-22

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## SUNCOAST GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES



## AUGUST 11, 2021 MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:10 pm. Present: Kelly Nolen, Rick Bunton, Susan Biel, Pat Church, Chandra McBride, Sherry Staley, Julia Larson, Pat Davis.

There was considerable discussion re termite problem. Clubhouse almost certainly needs to be tented. A lot of paneling has already been ripped out & needs to be removed from the premises ASAP. There are termites in one of the trees as well. Pat Church will follow up on this with Rick to see what the contract company will charge.

There was discussion re in-person general membership meeting in September: The board agreed that it is too soon to meet in person. Meetings may possibly resume in October, but it is not certain, depending on the covid situation.

Cab classes: Saturday cab class is suspended indefinitely. Chandra suggested having a class on Tuesday evenings when experienced members will be there in case problems arise. Pat D will work with Chandra on use of the machines.

Show: The Lealman site has fallen through; however, Minn-Reg (now the Largo Events Center) is ready to give us a contract. Pat Davis will follow up on this. Susan will put out a call in the newsletter for show volunteers. We currently do not have a vendor chair.

Joe Cooper has been contacted by someone who is not a member & apparently does not want to join but who wants to use the machines, unsupervised. In no way is this acceptable – it will not be allowed.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, September 2, 7 pm on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

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August 20th—Special Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm on Zoom. The meeting was called specifically to discuss the 2022 show. Attending were: Kelly Nolen, Breda McGuire, Susan Biel, Pat Church, Pat Davis and Julia Larson.

There was discussion as to whether to go forward with plans for the show. A motion was made and seconded that we do go forward. The vote was unanimous that we will plan for a show in 2022.

Bill Schmidt is apparently willing to continue as show chair. The postponed 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Eckerd College, where Bill works, is scheduled for the same weekend as the 2022 show, but we will work around any conflicts. As of the meeting, there is no Dealer Chair. Kelly indicated she is willing for the contracts to go out in her name and she will serve as the contact person until a Dealer Chair is found.

There was additional discussion on the termite situation at the clubhouse. Pat Church will follow up with this on Monday. All food will need to be removed from the clubhouse prior to tenting. (Unopened soda cans are OK.)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. The regular first Tuesday board meeting will be September 2 at 7 pm, via Zoom.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

## MINUTES, CONT.

## BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm via Zoom. Present were Kelly Nolen, Susan Biel, Pat Davis, Pat Church, Chandra McBride, Sherry Staley, Breta McGuire and Julia Larson.

The contract for the show has been sent to The Largo Event Center (formerly Minn-Reg) along with a check for the deposit. The check was signed by Julia, who remains as a signer on the bank account. We still do not have a Dealer Chair. There was discussion of handling the contracts via pencil and paper, since computer access and knowledge seem to be an issue. Sherry offered to work on this and Pat Davis agreed to meet with her to explain what needs to be done.

The termite situation is still on hold.

There have been some changes in the cab shop hours and personnel. Chandra is willing to help and Pat Davis will work with her to familiarize her with the equipment.

Susan's deadline for the newsletter is September 12.

The next regular board meeting will be the first Thursday in October via Zoom. No general meetings are planned at this time due to the continuing covid-19 situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Submitted by Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

**MAY 2021 MEETING  
AND INSTALLATION  
CEREMONY**

On May 25th the first in-person meeting was held since 2019 , and the weather cooperated to allow for it to be held in the Clubhouse Backyard (and a big thank you to those who helped to clean up and prep the area in advance!)

The new Officers and Directors were nominated, elected and sworn in, with Sue Hazelden officiating for the Installation Ceremony.

Many, many thanks for those who accepted the nomination and positions to support SGAMS.



## Gem of The Month: SAPPHIRE

### THE YOGO SAPPHIRE:

**Yogo sapphires** are blue sapphires, a colored variety of corundum, found in Montana, primarily in Yogo Gulch. Yogo sapphires are typically cornflower blue, a result of trace amounts of iron and titanium. They have high uniform clarity and maintain their brilliance under artificial light. Because Yogo sapphires occur within a vertically dipping resistive igneous dike, mining efforts have been sporadic and rarely profitable. It is estimated that at least 28 million carats (5.6 t or 5.5 long tons or 6.2 short tons) of Yogo sapphires are still in the ground. Jewelry containing Yogo sapphires was given to First Ladies Florence Harding and Bess Truman; in addition, many gems were sold in Europe, though promoters' claims that Yogo sapphires are in the crown jewels of England or the engagement ring of Princess Diana are dubious. Today, several Yogo sapphires are part of the Smithsonian Institution's gem collection.

Yogo sapphires were not initially recognized or valued. Gold was discovered at Yogo Creek in 1866, and though "blue pebbles" were noticed alongside gold in the stream alluvium by 1878, it was not until 1894 that the "blue pebbles" were recognized as sapphires. Sapphire mining began in 1895 after a local rancher named Jake Hoover sent a cigar box of gems he had collected to an assay office, which in turn sent them to Tiffany's in New York, where an appraiser pronounced them "the finest precious gemstones ever found in the United States".[2] Hoover then purchased the original mother lode from a sheepherder, later selling it to other investors. The term "Yogo sapphire" is the preferred wording for gems found in the Yogo Gulch, whereas "Montana sapphire" generally refers to gems found in other Montana locations. More gem-quality sapphires are produced in Montana than anywhere else in North America.

From Wikipedia



### World's largest star sapphire found

After a year of cleaning a large stone, experts have certified that it is the world's largest star sapphire cluster. Workers digging a well in Ratnapura, Sri Lanka, found the stone by chance. Weighing 1,124 pounds, it has been named "the Serendipity Sapphire." Serendipity refers to something good happening unexpectedly. Many gemstones are found in the Ratnapura region—its name means "city of gems." Experts say the stone is worth up to \$100 million.

From "This Week Junior" magazine,  
Contributed by Julia Larson



Take a look at what workers from Uruguay Minerals recently found! The workers discovered the amazing amethyst quartz geode in their quarry on the border of Uruguay and Brazil.

According to My Modern Met, who had the opportunity to interview the mining company, "The miners had no idea that they were about to discover this lovely geode; in fact, they were struggling to get the excavation going. "We were opening the mine to work normally," Marcos Lorenzelli of Uruguay Minerals tells My Modern Met, "but the land was difficult to work and our employees said, 'We have to find something really nice due to the hard work we are doing.'" Their patience was rewarded with this once-in-a-lifetime find. According to Goodnewsnetwork.org, the heart shaped geode is for sale and they've already received a bid of \$120,000!\*

\*From Reddit, January 2021



**A RIVER CUTS  
THROUGH A ROCK  
NOT BECAUSE  
OF ITS POWER  
BUT BECAUSE OF  
ITS PERSISTENCE.**

JIM WATKINS

### Collecting Rocks

I think that there shall never be  
an ignoramus just like me,  
who roams the hills throughout the day,  
to pick up rocks that do not pay,  
for there's one thing I've been told  
I take the rocks and leave the gold.  
O'er deserts wild mountain blue  
I search for rocks of varied hue  
a hundred pounds or more I pack,  
with blistered feet and aching back  
and after this is said and done  
I cannot name a single one.  
I pick up rocks where e'er I go  
the reason why I do not know,  
for rocks are found by fools like me  
where God intended them to be.

©

## Fun facts:

### How Common Rocks Got Their Names -- from [www.etymologynerd.com](http://www.etymologynerd.com)



#### Andesite

Named in 1826 by German geologist Leopold von Buch after the Andes mountain range in South America, where the rock was frequently found.



#### Anthracite

A distant relative of the word *anthrax*. Can be traced to Ancient Greek *anthracites*, which meant "coal-like", due to its similar properties.



#### Basalt

A misspelling of the Latin word *basanites*, which referred to very hard stones in general. Ultimately from Egyptian *baban*, meaning "slate".



#### Chalk

Originally *cealc* in Old English. That's borrowed from Latin *calx*, which meant "limestone" and is from Ancient Greek *khalix*, "pebble".



#### Diorite

A term invented by French geologist Alexandre Brongniart from the Ancient Greek word *dioriza*, which meant "to distinguish".



#### Flint

Derives from Proto-Germanic *flintaz*, which goes further back to Proto-Indo-European reconstruction *splind*, meaning "to split" or "cleave".



#### Gneiss

Borrowed in the eighteenth century from the German word *Gneiss*, which eventually traces to Old High German *gneisto*, meaning "spark".



#### Granite

Through French, comes from Italian *granite*, "to granulate". That's from Latin *granum* and Proto-Indo-European *grhnom*, both meaning "grain".



#### Graphite

Comes from the Ancient Greek *graphein*, meaning "to write", because it was used in making pencils. Related to words like *graphic* and *paragraph*.



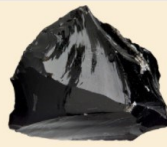
#### Limestone

The *lime*-part is from Old English *lim*, which described the sticky white-grey substance you get from burning limestone.



#### Marble

Thought to come from Ancient Greek *marmaros*, meaning "sparkling", because of marble deposits historically being abundant near the sea.



#### Obsidian

A misspelling of Latin *obsianus lapis*, meaning "stone of Obsius", the Roman explorer who was said to have discovered it in Ethiopia.



#### Phosphorite

Named for its high amounts of phosphorus. The noun comes from the Ancient Greek words *phos*, meaning "light", and *pherein*, meaning "to carry".



#### Pumice

From Latin *pumex*, also describing the rock. Thought to be from a Proto-Indo-European root sounding like *poh* and meaning "foam".



#### Pyrite

A sixteenth-century name tracing to the Ancient Greek phrase *pyrites lithos*, which meant "stone of fire", because the rock glitters.



#### Quartz

Borrowed from German *Quarz*, which traces to Middle High German *twarc* and eventually the Old Church Slavonic root *tvrdy*, meaning "hard".



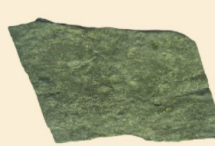
#### Schist

From the Latin phrase *schistos lapis*, "stone that splits easily". There was a similar phrase, *skhistos lithos*, in Ancient Greek, but that referred to talc.



#### Shale

From the Middle English word *schale*, meaning "shell" or "husk". That's from Old English *scealu*, which had the same definition.



#### Slate

Comes from Old French *esclate*, meaning "splinter", because the rock splits easily. Ultimately from Proto-Germanic *splitana*, "to split".



#### Tuff

Borrowed into English in the late sixteenth century, with the early spellings *tuph* or *tuft*. Traces to the Latin word *tofus*, also describing the rock.

## 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)

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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### **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 (app

**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 [peecheene8@gmail.com](mailto:peecheene8@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, EXCEPT for dues, which should be mailed to Donna Sapp, Membership Committee Chair]

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