



September 2022

Volume 72 No. 1 Page 1

Dear SGAMS Members,

I wish that I could say I feel Autumn in the air, as this has been one of the hottest and most humid summers since I moved here in 2015. All my grand plans of some productive work days straightening out the rock shelves and sheds melted like a dropped popsicle on black-topped parking lot!

While I did get away for my 50th High School Reunion in Connecticut, I didn't have opportunities to seek more than just beach rocks, so no "**Show and Tell**" for me at our first meeting on September 15th. Hopefully y'all came away with treasures and rockhounding memories to share with us from these past months since we last all met up.

What did keep me busy were matters pertaining to the Club! My Google Timeline shows the clubhouse as the second most visited place in my travels since May (more than grocery shopping, surprisingly) - luckily I am only three miles away, and my husband is *very* understanding!

Again—my big push is to tap into Members talents! I will be bringing this theme up over and over! Volunteerism is the **LIFEBLOOD** of our organization! Be prepared to step up and help out!

See you Thursday for the **FIRST** meeting of the Year!

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 ANY-THING!

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

## 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 and Mineral Society

Board Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2022



Attending: Susan Biel, Breta McGuire, Shamus Walker, Pat Davis. By phone Kelly Nolen, Pat Church

The meeting was called to order by President, Susan Biel at 7:05 PM.

For the building committee Susan reported that she has only been able to get one viable response from the eight people she has contacted about needed repairs to the soffit, fascia, gable ends and replacing the door to the breezeway. There is one other estimate expected so a decision on proceeding with these repairs will be made at the next board meeting.

Susan reported that the county will trim the tree that hangs over the road to the north of the clubhouse. Once that is completed we can proceed with having the limbs that overhang our parking lot and buildings trimmed.

Plans are to schedule a yard cleanup day in October when hopefully, it will be a little cooler.

Susan requested that an email be sent to members advising them of the inside cleanup scheduled for September 10 at 10:00AM and asking that items not be dropped off at the clubhouse until further notice.

Breta and Susan expect to send out contracts for the show tomorrow.

Susan reiterated the importance of officers and committee chairs having a backup. There needs to be more than one person who knows what each job entails.

Program for the next meeting, September 15, will be the traditional "What I did this Summer."

Meeting starts at 7:00PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Davis for Julia Larson

**MANY THANKS TO THE CLEAN-UP CREW!!**

Saturday September 10th was a great clean up day, with some regulars who come out to help: Sue Hazelden, was down on her knees cleaning the bathroom floor after making the fixtures gleam; Julia Larson scrubbed every inch, nook and crannie of that kitchen ; Pat Church stripped the tables of years of grime; Breta sorted through items that were stashed and tucked randomly throughout various shelves and stored things more sensibly, and Pat Davis swept up a storm (cough, sneeze, cough) of debris off the floors and helped me take down the curtains for an overdue washing!

Thank you Ladies—the place practically sparkles!



### **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.

## SOME “GEMS” FROM THE INTERNET

There is such a wealth of knowledge to be mined from the Internet! Here are a few with links provided.

**ROCK SEEKER:** This is pretty much “one man’s blog” by a guy named Don from Willamette Valley region of Oregon. It is free to join, and he sends emails with his latest articles, although to support his website, it is peppered quite heavily with pop-up ads. This most current article is really creative, all about the World Famous Rock Food Table.

<https://www.rockseeker.com/rock-food-table/> [ and see my “rock food” on page \_\_\_ ]

**GEOLOGYIN.COM**—While this website does have some issues according to which browser you use (Chrome is hit and miss, Safari is good, Firefox is best) there is a great, robust feeling with a ticker scrolling across the page with THE LATEST in geological news! They have a newsletter and also advertise for Gem Show. <https://www.geologyin.com/>

### 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.

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR ANSWERS READY FOR PART II OF THIS AT THE SEPTEMBER 15TH  
GENERAL MEETING:**

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.
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.
3. Any idea what the first one is?? Would #3 be green kyanite? It’s a little glimmery. And the other... maybe malachite?? Like to bring out color...

#1



#2



#3





## 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!

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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. . .

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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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Working with Silver, Gold, Copper, Bronze and Brass  
 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