

ROCK-A-GRAM



February, 2006



Volume 37, No. 6, Page 1

General Meeting

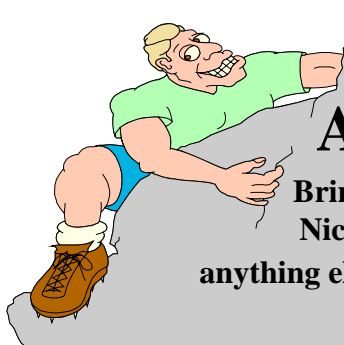
Thursday, February 16, 2006

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center

1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg



PROGRAM:

Annual Auction

Bring in donated items for auction.
Nice specimens, lapidary pieces or
anything else you think might sell in our auction.
Don't miss this one!

THE TAMPA SHOW AT THE FAIR GROUNDS MARCH 17, 18, & 19

The admission price is \$5 per person. Our club has been authorized to sell tickets in advance of their show for only \$3. Anyone wishing to go to the show can purchase advance tickets at our next two meetings, and at our show in march.

Sue Hazelden

If your last name starts with N-Z, it is your turn to bring goodies to this meeting.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Don Schlough, 3 yr. Director 576-1852
 Email: godguy4@yahoo.com
 82164 D Street
 Pinellas Park, FL 33781

David Cordes, Vice President 443-4706
 email: whisgyp@knology.com
 1227-S Hillcrest Ave.
 Clearwater, FL 33756

Sue Hazelden, Treasurer 321-5732
 Email: sujagems@aol.com
 4823 14th Ave. N.
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Julia Larson, Recording Sec. 522-1254
 Email: juliamlarson@earthlink.net
 5297 Huntington St. NE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Walt Upman, Corr. Sec. 323-3935
 3698 18th Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Terry Bogard, 3yr. Director 523-8046
 15666-49th Street N. #1153
 Clearwater, FL 33762

Gilbert Wegad, 2 yr. Director
 1018 35th Street North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Bill Schmidt, 1 yr. Director 822-8279
 3939 Porpoise Drive SE
 St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Lou Codol, Past President 544-3973
 6854 Criswell Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33709

Debra Bremer, Editor 298-0061
ROCK-A-GRAM

SGAMS Clubhouse Address: 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, Phone: (727) 541-1291, www.sgams.com

Clubhouse Activities: Listed on mailer coversheet and announced at membership meetings.
SGAMS Board of Director's Meetings: 7:30 p.m., 1st Tuesday of each month; September - May.
 All members are invited to attend SGAMS Board of Director's Meetings at our clubhouse.
 We solicit your attendance, and constructive suggestions for improving our club.

Nominees for Next Year

David Cordes, President
Sue Hazelden, Treasurer
Julia Larson, Recording Secretary
Walt Upman, Corresponding Secretary

Bill Schmidt, 3 year director
Evie Loster, 2 year director
Gilbert Wegad, 1 year director

Nominating Committee:


Pat Davis, Shelia Hager, Walt Upman

Other names can be submitted by the members at next meeting if they wish.

The Elachee Nature Center

The Elachee Nature Center at 2125, Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA is pleased to announce the opening of a new museum exhibit, *The Waters of Time*. Many superior fossils have been donated to this exhibit by Dr. Steve Nicklas, geology professor at Gainesville College, Georgia. Assisting in the opening of this exhibit was Georgia Mineral Society member Leslie Perry. Of special interest are the two full-sized *mosasaurs* that are wallmounted. To participate in an exciting one-week-long fossil hunting trip out west this summer, check out Paleo Prospectors on the web. This all-inclusive fossil hunting venture allows participants to keep the fossils they find. Website: <http://www.paleoprospectors.org>. *Georgia Mineral Society Member, Leslie Perry. Source: Lodestar, February, 2006.*

TIP: Cleaning Fragile Crystals - To clean fragile or hard-to-reach recesses in mineral specimens, try Crew®, a product of Johnson's Wax. Spray the foam on the rock. Let it set a minute, then rinse with water. It is safe on all materials, including calcite and Fluorite. [ed note: except, of course, water sensitive minerals such as sulfates] (From Tumbler, 07/2004 via Shin-Skinner News, 01/2006, Vug Newsletter, Stamford, CT, Feb. 2006)




The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
a local non-profit club proudly presents:
36th Annual

Gem & Mineral Show and Sale

March 3, 4, 5, 2006
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CONTINUOUS WORKING DEMONSTRATIONS


- Bead Stringing
- Wirecraft
- Channel Work
- Gem Cutting



**DIAMONDS
EMERALDS
RUBIES
14K GOLD JEWELRY
DOOR PRIZES
EXHIBITS
AND
MUCH MORE....**

DIRECTIONS

- Minnreg Building
6340 126th Avenue No.
Largo
- From Tampa I-275 cross
Howard Franklin Bridge.
At exit 31B, take Ramp
(right) onto SR-688
(Ulmerton Rd) Merge
onto SR-686. Bear LEFT
(West) onto SR-688
(Ulmerton Rd) turn
LEFT (South-East)
onto US-19 N. Turn
RIGHT (West) onto
126th Ave N.
- From North on US 19
take 66th Street exit go to
126th Ave., turn left.



What is Intarsia?

History has it that stone intarsia was first made centuries ago in Florence, Italy to rival the glass mosaics made in Venice.

The pieces of glass used in mosaics are usually broken and uneven, and sometimes vary a great deal in thickness. The stones used in intarsia must be accurately cut and precisely fitted to form the intricate designs.

The entire piece then must be polished, requiring skill and patience by the lapidarist to achieve a smooth finish.

The variety of stones used, and their placement result in unique pieces - usually one of a kind.

Source: Outcroppings, January, 2006. RLM Creations, Clearwater, FL.

Ode to an Aging Rockhound

by Dolores E. Rose, SCRIBE RVP

Oh, to have the enthusiasm I had then,
The wonder of a polished stone
Or my first gift of fossil bone,
When I was just a rockhound of ten.
Oh, to have the energy I had a plenty,
To hunt for agates through the day,
And carry my bag all the way.
When I was a rockhound of twenty.
Oh, to have been able to dig and get dirty,
Fossils to find in our Badlands,
Scrounging in mud and sifting sands.
When I was a rockhound of thirty.
Oh, to have the adventure of feeling sporty,
My trusty hammer, pick, and aw!
Shale split trilobites ...what a haul!
When I was a rockhound of forty.
Oh, but today my life is not very nifty
With pains in the knees and shoulder.
And stiff hands are getting older,
Now that I am a rockhound of fifty.
Oh, but my future hunting may be quite a chore,
But I shall cherish my treasures
For the memories and pleasures,
When I am a rockhound of sixty or more.

From S.C.R.I.B.E. Bulletin Oct./Dec. 2005, The Rock Vein, December, 2005.

FEDERATION NEWS

A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Vol. 59, #3 February, 2006
www.AMFED.org

2006 Regional Federation Shows

California/AFMS
June 9-11
Angel's Camp, CA

Rocky Mountain
June 9-11
Stillwater, OK

Eastern Federation
November 17-19
West Palm Beach, FL

South Central
August 18-20
Bossier City, LA

Midwest
May 19-21
Southgate, MI

Southeast
August 15-20
Nashville, TN

Northwest
July 14-16
Kelso, WA

CHEMICAL FORMULAS AND HOW TO READ THEM

by Fred Schaefermeyer

$(\text{Na,Ca})(\text{Mg,Fe,Li,Al})_3\text{Al}_6(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})(\text{B O}_3)_3(\text{OH,F})_4 = \text{tourmaline.}$

Many people see a chemical formula and immediately duck it thinking they can understand the meaning thereby overlooking a great deal of information.

First, the letters you see are shorthand symbols which stand for each element in the structure. The symbols are generally the first letter or first and second letter of the element name. The first letter is always capitalized and the second letter is never capitalized. Some exceptions come about because certain letters are already in use when a symbol was established and that letter cannot be used a second time. Other seeming exceptions are those elements named early, after the Latin name, and thus iron became Fe after ferrum; lead, Pb after plumbum; gold, Au after aurum, etc. They can be learned with a little concentrated effort.

Subscripts (the numbers just below the line) show how many atoms of the preceding listed element are necessary to have a balanced formula. If there is no subscript there is only one atom in the formula.

Parentheses () are used to set aside groups which should be looked at as a unit. If the elements in the parentheses are set aside by a comma, e.g. (Mg,Fe,Li,Al), in our tourmaline formula, they must be treated as a group. Parentheses are also used to set aside those radicals which have combined to form anion groups like carbonate (CO_3); phosphate, (PO_4), hydroxyl, (OH); arsenate, (AsO_4), etc. These also are to be treated as one unit entity. Let's then look at and analyze the tourmaline formula above. We will refer to the series of elements within the parentheses as sites. So, in the first site we can have one atom of sodium or one of calcium, but not both. The predominant atom will be sodium, because it is listed first.

The next site can contain any one of the four listed atoms of magnesium, iron, lithium or aluminum with magnesium predominant. There are three atoms in this site and can be any combination of the elements listed, even three of the same kind. In the third site we can only have 6 atoms of aluminum.

These first three sites are the *cation* (kat-eye-en) sites as the atoms are all positively charged. By convention, cations are always listed first in the formulas. The *anion* (an-eye-en) sites begin with the silicate radical (Si_6O_{18}) and we have a total of three such anions - the silicate, the borate and the hydroxyl/fluoride radicals - and they are each negatively charged.

In the first site we would have six silicon atoms and eighteen oxygen atoms. The second site, the borate radical, has one boron atom and three oxygen atoms. But, notice that there are three of these borate radicals.

The last, the hydroxyl/fluoride site, has four of any combination of an oxygen atom coupled with a hydrogen atom, or a fluorine atom. We can have 4 hydroxyls or 3 hydroxyls and one fluoride or other geochemical conditions (such as acidity) were not achieved in the rock. For example, diamond won't form in a rock, unless certain conditions are met. In yet other cases, there is a true chemical incompatibility. It is because of this that quartz is never found with olivine, corundum, sodalite, or lazurite. These minerals are just not chemically stable together. Does this mean if you put a piece of corundum next to a piece of quartz they'll explode? Of course not. The point is that the two minerals will simply not form together in the same environment. If corundum forms, quartz won't form and vice versa. The reason is that corundum forms only in a low silica environment and quartz only in a high silica one. Let's consider a hot magma. There are no fluoride or 2 and 2 or 3 and 1 or 4 fluorides.

Reference: *Hurlbut & Klein, Manual of Mineralogy, 19th Edition from the Mineral Newsletter, February 1985 via Gem Cutters' News, 1/06, Vug Newsletter, Stamford, CT, Feb. 2006.*

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc
 The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve.
 SFMS Field Trip Committee

Fort Drum Crystal Mine

Rock Swap / Field Trip

Ft. Drum, Florida

Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12, 2006

8:00a.m. to sundown

Fee: \$20.00/day/person \$8.00/day/child (15 and under)

All minors must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

ITEMS COLLECTED: There is an abundance of well-fossilized and calcified marine shells. The sand and shell matrix rock is in the Nashua Formation (Pleistocene) and is composed of well-calcified shells. Any cavities within these fossils may contain calcite crystals. Honey colored calcite crystals up to 1" in length can be found within large fossilized clamshells. Small calcite crystals within shells are very common. Fossilized bone and teeth, although rare, can also be found at this location.

Swap tables will be set up, so bring your items to trade or sell.

Port-O-Lets will be provided.

DIRECTIONS: Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeekaw Junction). Go south of Ft. Drum General Store about 0.5 mile and turn east on 304th St. Go about 2.75 miles to the quarry entrance (north side of the road). There should be someone at the gate around 8:00a.m. to collect money and liability waivers.

WHAT TO BRING: Pants, sturdy shoes / boots, gloves and protective eyewear are recommended. Bring tools, buckets / cloth bag, and newspaper to collect, carry and wrap fragile specimens. The collecting area can be extremely wet and muddy. Bring a change of clothing along with plenty of water and a towel.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: It is recommended that you wear sturdy shoes or boots and gloves. Daytime temperatures can vary as much as 40F, so layered clothing is appropriate. This is an active quarry and the sand/ rock along the quarry walls can collapse without notice. Be extremely careful working next to steep walls. Some areas may be marked off, so do not go into these areas for your safety.

WHERE TO STAY: Okeechobee is the nearest town! . I now know that it is very difficult to negotiate rates of stay due to fishing tournaments that often occur. Below is a list of motels in Okeechobee; however, January, February, and March are peak times for south

Florida motels. There are also many inexpensive motels in the Kissimmee area and on I-95 south of Melbourne down to Ft. Pierce. Check ahead, some businesses are still closed due to hurricanes.

Okeechobee Motels Phone Numbers:

Budget Inn 863-763-3185
 Holiday Inn Exp. 863-357-3529
 Flamingo Motel 863-763-4894
 Travelers Inn 863-763-3146
 Economy Inn 863-763-1148
 Scottish Inn 863-763-3293

For more information contact:
Eddie Rucks
fortdrumcrystalmine@yahoo.com
863-634-4579

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting
February 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were President Don Schlough, Bill Schmidt, Lou Cobol, Dave Cordes, Walt Upman, and Julia Larson.

Minutes from the January 19th board meeting, held following the regular club meeting, were read and accepted. Corrections to the board meeting minutes from January 2 were noted: Property taxes were paid in November, not December; and the carved malachite pendant was donated by Sue Black, not Elmer Robins. Apologies to Sue Black. The corrections were accepted by the board.

Don read the treasurer's report, as Sue Hazelden could not be present. The report was accepted for audit.

Show status was discussed. Lou passed the contracts to Bill, who will be show chairman next year. Don will check prices for renting a truck. Lou suggested we need four laborers this year instead of three. We will ask at the meeting for volunteers to meet at the clubhouse at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 25, to organize things to be taken to the show. The status of the committees is not certain; this will be finalized at the meeting on February 16. Door prizes will be discussed with Sue Black. Bill asked about grab bags; Lou said, we already have them ready.

Clubhouse: Don stated Mr. Killion will discuss with Mr. Jager the changes he (Killion) perceives will need to be made. These should reduce somewhat the final construction cost. Several board members suggested that Don should make sure Mr. Killion is aware of the delays we have experienced in past negotiations with Mr. Jager. Don stated Mr. Killion will include his expenses in this process in his bid.

Elections: Walt has a slate of nominees which he will forward to Debbie to include in the February newsletter. Voting will be at the March meeting, with installation of officers at the May dinner meeting.

Our annual auction will be at the February meeting. Last year we raised about \$300 in the auction. Don would like to see that figure increased this year, so we need to have a lot of good items to auction. He will ask the Azalea center if they can put a sign on the marquee so we can bring in members of the public. He will also check the Science Center and the public library to see if they will allow our flyers in their facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by:
Julia Larson
Recording Secretary