

ROCK-A-GRAM



October, 2009



Volume 41, No. 2, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2009

7:30 p.m.

LOCATION

4619 69th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL



Program:

Wire Wrapping Demonstration

By: Sue Black

DUES ARE DUE!

\$15 Individuals - \$20 per family

Please give them to the membership chairman, *Dave Schwebel*, covering for *Carmen Lemke*, or *Sue Hazelden*, Treasurer.

If your last name starts with N-Z, please bring goodies to our meeting.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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SGAMS Clubhouse Address: 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709, 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.
General Meetings: 7:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday of each month; September - May, at clubhouse.



GEM TREE CLASS

We will have a gem tree class on Wednesday, October 21st at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in learning how to make gem trees, please call me at 321-5732 as soon as possible, number of participants will be limited.

If needed, I will have wire, glue, gem stones, felt and a few bases for a small fee. If you have pliers with smooth points, please bring them. I have in the past filed and smoothed the serrations off a regular pair of small pliers, which works.

Sue Hazelden

Easy Wire Wrap Project

By Fran and Warren Collins

Canaveral Moonstone, October 2009

Here is a cute easy to make adjustable wire wrap ring. Using 10" of 16 or 18 ga wire and a ring mandrel, make a cinnamon bun, then wrap it around the mandrel to your size, (3 times around) then continue with the 2nd cinnamon bun, and its ready to wear.



Two wire wrap rings in copper by Warren Collins. Fran Collins photographer.



President's Message

Hello,
Last months program was very interesting with all the creations made over the summer. Some members were very prolific doing lots of cabbings and even a faceting class was finished. Lots of information was passed on from members travels. I hope you did not miss it. If you did, come this month and get caught up.

I am proud to announce that a member of SGAMS has made a very generous donation of items to us. We received a large number of slabs (77 pounds), a Graves Cab-Mate, a flat of fluorite specimens, a box of just about everything and even Lapidary Journals. The Board has started to go through the items and are deciding how best to use this gift to advance our mission. Of the slab boxes that we have investigated so far some (think Biggs) we will probably sell on e-bay.

Others will begin a collection of polished slabs to compliment the specimen cases we now have and provide a good representation of different minerals and rocks for identification and teaching. The Lapidary Journals will be checked for our library. The faceting rough will likely go to classes and other items will be put up for sale for benefit of the club. In that respect before and after General Meetings a box or two of items will be offered for sale to members who want to come early at 7:00 PM and browse. After that anything still available will go into the general flats out in the workshop.

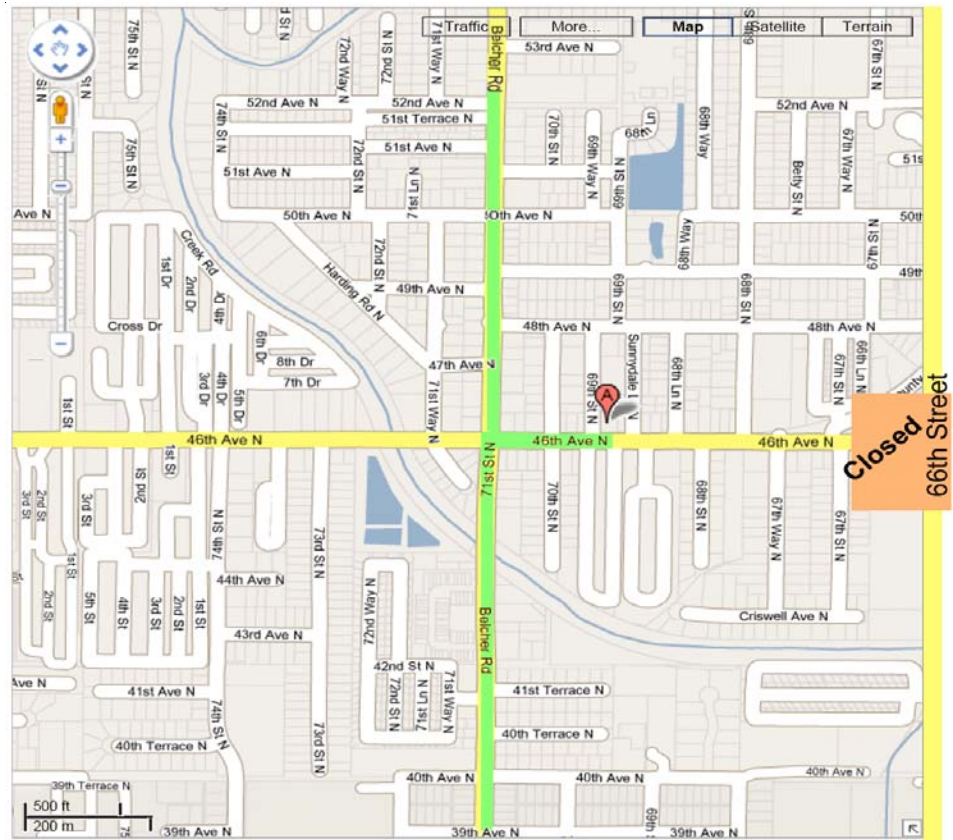
As mentioned last month we need help in sorting through all of the Lapidary Journals in the main room and finding what we have. We want to get them in order and list any

missing ones. With the donation of journals and the ones already in boxes, I hope to fill out our collection. This is largely a self directed job that can be done before and after meetings and during shop open times. Would anyone like to help out? Please see me.

The road work on 46th is going full speed now. There is a new lane added to our side of the road, new curbs, bicycle lanes, new power poles and a lot of trees trimmed back. When you come this month the intersection at 66th Street and 46th Avenue is supposed to be closed. So you might have to come in the back way on 48th Avenue or even 49th Avenue. I think the West end of 46th Ave will be open as well as 71st Street/ Belcher. View map for other possible routes. Maybe leave a few minuets early to get around blockages and learn what our side view now looks like. I almost missed it on Monday.

I would like to point out for those of you in St. Petersburg, there will be a house hold chemical collection held by Pinellas County at the old south side K-mart on Saturday the 7th of November. This is a great time to clean out the garage of unwanted chemicals and electronics. While there is a short "Do Not Bring" list it is within reason. New this year is that you can drop off automobile batteries, motor oil, and smoke detectors. For full information and procedures you can check the County web site or call them at 464-7500. Also there is a full schedule of when and where the mobile collections will take place. We are all interested in the Earth and the beauty it has created within. Let's try doing our part, and more, to leave as little waste and damage on the outside as possible.

Thank You,
Bill Schmidt, President



The Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society
a local non-profit club proudly presents:
40th Annual

Gem & Mineral Show and Sale

March 5, 6, 7, 2010

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....

ADMISSION

Adults - \$5.00 good for all three days, children under 6 FREE
Students with parents or I.D. Card \$4.00

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.

FEDERATION NEWS

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
June-July, 2009
www.AMFED.org

2009-10 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions

California Federation
June 18-20, 2010
TBA

**Rocky Mountain
Federation**
October 2-3, 2009
Roswell, NM

Eastern Federation
October 17-18, 2009
Bristol, CT

**South Central
Federation**
AFMS

Midwest Federation
TBA

October 10-11, 2009
Temple, TX

Northwest Federation
TBA

**AFMS Annual
Convention**
TBA

Picking Good Jasper

Jasper is much more troublesome to polish than agate because many varieties are "earthy" and porous, and others contain hematite, which is itself difficult to polish. If you are on a field trip, a good way to test jasper is to wet it. (Do not lick it.) If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, keep it. It contains a high amount of chalcedony and will take a good polish. Most Jaspers polish well on leather with Linde-A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. Always remember that a fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing.

When tumbling softer, hard to polish material, don't start with the coarse grit. Start with the second grit and go one grit finer than the #3 grit used on agates. In polishing, fill the tumbler $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ full (if not using pellets) so the stones will roll and not fall. This way you do not have the stones beating the polish off the ends. Also, cerium oxide will polish better than regular tumbler polishing agents. It does not take very much cerium to do this job, about $\frac{1}{2}$ as much as the regular tumble polish.

Source: Rock Rollers 9/04 via Rock Licker 5/05, Star-O-Lite, Augusta, Georgia, August 2009

Did You Know...

Tarnish: To keep sterling silver from tarnishing place sticks of chalk (blackboard chalk) in your cases, jewelry boxes, jewelry drawer or just around your jewelry. Sulfur gases in the air cause the tarnish and chalk is a natural absorber of sulfur.

[The Tektite 11/04 via Lithosphere 12/04]
Star-O-Lite, Augusta, GA, August 2009

Saws: When the lapidary saw needs to have the tub cleaned, filter all of the oil through about four or five grocery bags. The oil will be clean and reusable. The oil never wears out. It is also very expensive.

Each time you clean the lapidary saw, reverse the blade. This will give longer life to the blade as you wear each side evenly.

[Rockbuster News 8/09], Star-O-Lite, Augusta, GA, August 2009

Upcoming Shows

Source: *Canaveral Moonstone, October 2009*

Oct. 24 – 25, 2009: Tampa

Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club, Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 US Hwy. 301 N. www.tampabayrockclub.com

Oct. 31 Nov. 1- 2009: Stuart

St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club, Martin County Fairgrounds; 2616 S.E. Dixie Hwy.; www.slrockandgem.org

Nov. 8 - 9, 2009: Melbourne

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society, Annual Parade of Gems Show Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Ave. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Nov. 13 -15, 2009: Orlando

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W. Colonial Dr. www.thumblicker.com

November 21-22, 2009: West Palm Beach

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches, South Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Fairgrounds Road. www.gemandmineral@bellsouth.net.

Dec. 4-6, 2009: Spring Hill

Withlacoochee Rockhounds, Slovene American Club, 13383 County Line Rd. www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

January 16-17, 2009: Deland

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society, Annual Jewelry, Gem Mineral & Fossil Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds, St. Rte 44, Deland www.tomokagms.org

January 15-17, 2010: Largo

Pinellas Geological Society, 33rd Annual Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show and Sale, Parkside Room, Largo Cultural Center. Hours: 16th & 17th, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; 18th, 12:00 Noon-5:00 p.m.

February 13-14-2010: Merritt Island

Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club, "Symphony of Gemstones" Kiwanis Island Park, 950 Kiwanis Park Rd.

Feb. 21, 2009: Auburndale

Imperial Bone Valley Gem Mineral and Fossil Society, The Auburndale Beach Club (on lake Ariana), 321 Ramsgate Rd., Auburndale, FL www.bonevalley.net

New Members

Leslie Brisette

50 82nd Avenue, Apt 2
Treasure Island, Florida 33706
(727) 204-7551
serenemoments@hotmail.com

Denise Blue

820 42nd Avenue North
St Petersburg, Florida 33703
(727) 522-2609
bave3@aol.com

Rhoda Levine

Rozaire Barbieri
6020 Shore Blvd So. #703
Gulfport, Florida 33707
(727) 384-9269
rhoda429@tampabay.rr.com

Pat Scanlan

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St. Petersburg, Florida. 33709
(727) 545-0907
stpetepat@yahoo.com

Loanne Hammerly

2576 Northfield
Clearwater, Florida 33761
(727) 459-1722
lobeads@hotmail.com

Monica Lara

2071 Hillwood Dr
Clearwater, Florida. 33763
phbeads@yahoo.com



Field Trip - Ft. Drum Pit

(Open House)

October 15-18, 2009

Cost: \$30/ day to dig

\$25/night to camp

WHAT: Fossil, calcite, and combination fossil/calcite collecting trip

ITEMS COLLECTED: There are 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. Limit: (1) 5 gal bucket and 1 metric per person.

WHAT TO BRING: Bring your rock hammers, chisels, and other tools. You must wear long pants and gloves. Packing a cooler is a good idea also.

CAMPING AVAILABLE:

Camping will be available for \$25.00 per site per night. The water may be portable, but to be sure, bring some water for cooking and drinking. They will have a generator hooked up at night for the use of the bathroom and to shower.

DIRECTIONS:

Ft. Drum is on Hwy 441 approximately 15 miles south of the intersection of Hwy 60 and 441 (Yeehaw 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). Look for the Fort Drum Crystal Mine at the entrance.

More information call: Eddie at 813-634-4579



Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
General Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2009

Called to order 7:35 p.m.

New members/guests introduced themselves. Bill gave an overview of clubhouse and club activities and called for volunteers to sort and organize *Lapidary Journals*.

Committee reports:

Pat Davis – Education - reported on changes to the fall clubhouse schedule. The latest information was also published in the Rock A Gram.

Donna Mallory – Upcoming Field Trips

Graves Mountain Oct. 2-4. MAGMA (Mountain Area Gem & Mineral Assn.) will be there.

www.wncrocks.com/mine

Also planning a club trip to Rucks Pit soon.

Julia Larson: Holiday party will be Dec. 17 at Sunshine Center

The program for this meeting was members “Show & Tell”. Members reported on the field trips, classes taken and taught and other lapidary related activities they participated in this summer.

Adjourned 9:15 p.m

Submitted by:

Julia Larson

Recording Secretary



Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Amended Board Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Bill Schmidt. Six other board members were present. Newsletter editor Debbie Bremer was also present.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's report: Sue Hazelden read the report. Discussion followed, mostly regarding breakdown of expenses. This will be discussed in more detail in March of next year, when the new budget will be decided. The treasurer's report was accepted for audit.

Corresponding Secretary: Bill received ads for the gem calendar. The information will be posted in the newsletter.

Holiday Dinner Committee: No report. [Note: As of September 2, the hall at the Sunshine Center, where last May's dinner was held, has been reserved for the holiday dinner December 17.]

Audit Committee: Audit of the past year's reports was discussed and accepted. The treasurer was commended for her attention to detail.

Building Committee: Bill discussed improvements made over the summer and mentioned several projects that need to be completed as soon as possible. The pending appeal of the denial for property tax exemption was discussed. The board voted unanimously to drop the appeal as SGAMS does not meet any criteria for exempt status. According to the "TRIM" notice, the property tax will actually decrease in the coming year.

Education Committee: **The schedule for cabbing classes has changed.** Currently there are no Saturday classes. Classes will resume when instructors are located. See the Rock A Gram for the complete schedule.

Equipment Committee: Equipment needs were discussed. A motion was made that anyone needing equipment for classes prepare a budget for their needs and submit the budget to the board via email as soon as possible. The motion was approved.

Membership Committee Membership applications from **Dawn and Dave Bloom;** and **Diane and Chuck Thompson** were approved. New members must be approved before they can use the equipment.

Other business: Board members were reminded that any sale of excess equipment needs to be approved by the board before the sale is concluded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Amended minutes submitted by
Julia Larson, Recording Secretary

Rock-A-Gram

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

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OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Faceting 10-12 a.m.
4	5 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	6 BOARD MEETING 7:30-9 p.m.	7 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	8	9	10 Faceting 10-12 a.m.
11	12 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	13	14 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	15 GENERAL MEETING 7:30-9 p.m.	16	17 Faceting 10-12 a.m.
18	19 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	20	21 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	22	23	24 Faceting 10-12 a.m.
25	26 Cabbing 5-9 p.m. Silversmithing 6-8 p.m.	27	28 Cabbing Classes 6-9 p.m.	29	30	31

ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 13254, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-3254

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.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April at 7:30 p.m., at our clubhouse 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg. 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: \$15.00 single or \$20.00 couple/family; due annually each September

All exchange bulletins should be sent to the Rock-A-Gram editor.

Feel free to copy any material from this bulletin, but please list all byline credits.

ROCK-A-GRAM (Official Bulletin)

Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Debra Bremer, Editor

1349 Lakeview Road

Clearwater, FL 33756

Clubhouse Activities September - May

Board Meeting:

(September - May)

First Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

Clubhouse Open:

Mondays, 5 - 9 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Faceting, Silversmithing

Wire Wrapping Classes

By appointment