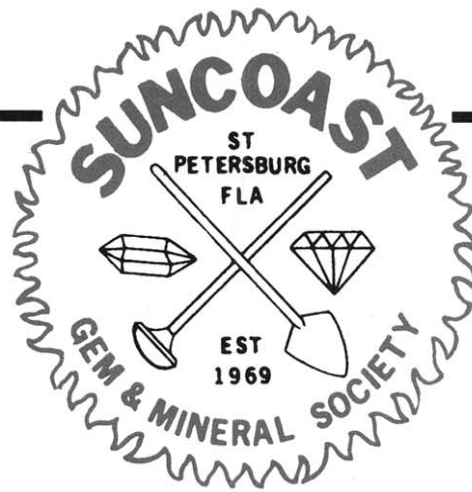


ROCK-A-GRAM



April, 2004



Volume 35, No. 8, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 2004

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center

1600 72nd Street North

St. Petersburg

Program

Video on:

"Synthetic Diamonds"

If your last name starts with A-M, please bring goodies to this meeting.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

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St. Petersburg, FL 33710

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.org

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.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,
Winter is gone, and spring is here, enjoy it. For summer will soon be here.

We will be having our banquet and that's all until September. We will try and have the club house open on Saturday mornings, more about this at the meeting. See you at the meeting.

Lou Codol, President

Annual Banquet

May 20, 2004
Azalea Adult Center

Doors open 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.

This years banquet will be a pot luck cover dish, like our Christmas Party. Please bring covered dish (enough for 10 people) and table settings for each person in your party.

We need volunteers to come in early to help set up table and chairs... Thank you.

Changes(s) to Roster

Vivian Reese
Royal Oaks Mannor
1833 Seminole Blvd. Room #5
Largo, FL 33778
Phone: 727-518-0433

Roger Adams and Family
420 8th Avenue
Tierra Verde, FL 33713
866-0176

Terry & Linda Bogard
15666 49th Street North, #1153
Clearwater, FL 33762
523-8046

Upcoming Shows

Lodestar, February, 2004
Volume XXIX/Two

April 23-25: Jacksonville

Jacksonville Jewelry, Bead, and Mineral Show
Morocco Shrine Auditorium
3800 St. John's Bluff Road S
Hours: 23rd - 1-6 p.m.
24th - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
25th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

May 7-9: Marietta, GA

Georgia Mineral Society 36th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Cobb County Civic Center
548 S. Marietta Parkway (at Fairgrounds Street)
Marietta, GA
Hours: 7th & 8th - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
9th - Noon - 5 p.m.



FEDERATION NEWS

A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Vol. 57, #3, February, 2004
www.AMFED.org

Upcoming 2004 Regional Federation Shows

Combined California
May 28-30, 2004
Mariposa, California

Eastern Federation/AFMS
July 8-11, 2004
Syracuse, New York

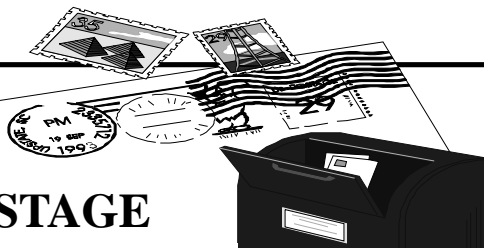
Midwest
April 23-25, 2004
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Northwest
July 23-25, 2004
Boise, Idaho

Southeast
December 10-12, 2004
Norcross, GA

South Central
September
Houston, TX

Rocky Mountain
April 23-25, 2004
Wichita, Kansas



POSTAGE STAMPS

Please remember to bring those stamps to the general meeting. Stamps must be either off the paper or neatly trimmed with 1/4" border around the stamp. Discard any stamps that are torn or defaced in any manner. To remove stamps, wet envelope with a little dish soap and warm water, stamp will fall off. Place stamp upside down on paper towel to dry.

Thank you.



OPALS FOR SALE

Dear Members:

I received this email from Robert Ayling. I thought someone in our membership might be interested in these opals.

Debra Bremer, Editor

"Dear Editor or Club Contact:

I have just returned from Australia and have the opal for sale listed below. I would be appreciative of any assistance you can provide to let interested parties know.

Thank you.

OPAL AVAILABLE...

Bob Ayling, member of Panama City Gem and Mineral Society, has recently returned from a buying trip to Australian opal fields and has the following opal for sale:

- a) Lightning Ridge black seam opal, rubbed to remove most of the potch. Each packet is approximately 4 ounces and is priced at \$200. (A-05)
- b) Lightning Ridge black seam opal, some rubbed and some rough Each packet contains 12-14 ounces and is priced at \$300. (A-06)
- c) A package of 30 boulder opal stones ready for final shaping and polishing. Price \$700. (A-04)
- d) A package of approximately 45 boulder opal stones ready for final shaping and polishing. Price \$650. (A-10)
- e) Queensland boulder opal material in various sized pieces. Almost all have multiple veins and are appropriate for splitting. Prices range from \$10 to \$200. (A-07)
- f) A packet of 65 Queensland boulder opal off-cuts ready for shaping and polishing. Price \$500. (A-08)

Bob can be reached at Robert Ayling Designs: Email: bayling@mindspring.com or telephone: until April 15, 239-348-1766 and thereafter: 508-746-2087."

Fort Drum Crystal Mine

Okeechobee, Florida

WEEKEND OF FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Saturday, April 24th and Sunday, April 25th

Rock Swap and Fossil Fair

\$5.00 general admission
children 12 and under FREE

\$15.00 for mineral and shell club members

Limit 1 5 gal bucket and 1 specimen
To enter the mine to collect rare calcite crystals and shells also collect both vertebrate and invertebrate fossils.

- Enjoy catch and release fishing
- Camp out (limited facilities)
- Entertainment provided by "Gator"
- Bar-B-Que Pork will all the fix'ns

For more information contact:

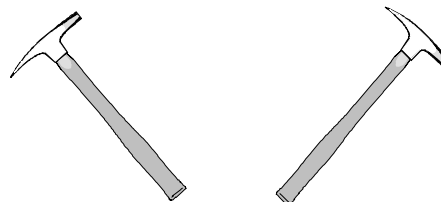
Eddie Rucks
863-634-4579
www.ThefossilGeode.com

Private Tours Available 1st and 3rd Saturday 20 or less @ \$60

Directions:

From Oeechobee-north on 441 approximately 20 miles to Fort Drum, turn right on 304th approximately 3 miles to mine.

From Yee Haw - south on 441 approximately 14 miles to Fort Drum, turn left on 304th, approximately 3 miles to mine.



The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc

The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve. (email received: 4-6-04)

SFMS Field Trip Committee

Graves Mountain “Rock Swap and Dig”

Friday, May 14, 2004, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 15, 2004, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(HOT FOOD/drinks, Saturday, May 15, 2004)

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 8 am to 6 pm,

”Your society is invited to field collect minerals at Georgia’s premiere mineral location!”

The SFMS Field Trip Committee has been in contact with the caretaker in charge of Graves Mountain, Junior Norman, in regard to his plans to hold a three day dig and rock swap on the Mountain during May 14-15-16, 2004. He will have the mountain open to collecting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. All participants must stop at the gate to sign a liability release and make a small contribution to defray the cost of opening the mountain and providing port-o-lets. There will be several golf carts available to transport those participants who have trouble walking long distances. The dig will cease and everyone is expected to be off the mountain by around 6 p.m. each day. Participants will be allowed to park in a designated area on the mountain.

Rock Swap and Hot Food/Drinks:

Junior will set aside an area in the parking lot for tables to be setup for a daily rock swap. Anyone who would like to setup a table(s), please contact Junior at the phone numbers listed below. Hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on the grill or BBQ will be available for purchase on the mountain during Saturday, May 15, 2004. Cold drinks will also be available for purchase.

THIS DIG IS OPEN TO ALL SFMS CLUBS

Mark your May calendars and tell all your members about this great event!

Contact Information:

Clarence Norman Jr. - 706.359.3862 (his business) or 706.359.2381 (his home)

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta’s I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign. The entrance is a paved road that goes through a gate and up a hill. There will be some one at the gate to hand out a liability release form to sign and to take a donation for the portable bathrooms, etc.

SFMS Field Trip Committee:

Please reply by e-mail to: dmc@gamineral.org

Jim Flora - SFMS Field Trip Committee Chair

Graves Mountain code of conduct!

- ◆ Park your vehicle in the designated area(s) only.
- ◆ **NO** child under the age of 12 years old is to be allowed on the mountain because of all the dangers involved.
- ◆ **ALL** pets must be kept under control and on a leash.
- ◆ The Graves Mountain caretaker, Clarence Norman Jr., has final and absolute say as to where you may safely work.
- ◆ Ladders or power tools of any kind will not be allowed. (HAND TOOLS ONLY!)
- ◆ **STAY AWAY FROM ALL HIGH WALLS!!**
- ◆ **NO REPELLING OFF OF ANYTHING!**
- ◆ **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DRIVE THEIR VEHICLE ON ANY PART OF GRAVES MOUNTAIN BEYOND THE PARKING AREA!** (The caretaker must accompany anyone driving beyond the parking area!)
- ◆ **EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE OFF THE MOUNTAIN BY DUSK.** (Absolutely no one is allowed on Mountain after dark.)

Tidbits

Lodestar, March 2004

Cleaning Geodes:

Save all your remnants of bars of soap. Put them into a plastic container. When you are lapping or facing a slab or geode that has a vug of crystal, soak the soap to a thick paste and fill the vug. When you have completed the lapping process, use a brush to wash out the soap. This will eliminate grit or slurry from filling the crystals.

*Author unknown, Source Golden spike News
Via The Crystal Chronical (3/04).*

To Open Geodes:

Soak a string in kerosene, tie it around a geode, burn the string, then plunge the geode in cold water. In many cases, this will crack the geode and a light tap with a hammer will finish the job.

*Author unknown, Source The Pterodactyl (5/00),
Via The Crystal Chronical (3/04)*

Geode Cleaning:

For a bright sparkle, mix denture powder as directed and soak your geodes with crystal centers and/or your crystal specimens.

*Author unknown, Source Golden Spike News, (2/03)
Via The Crystal Chronical (3/04)*



ANOTHER NEW SYNTHETIC PROCESS FOR MAKING DIAMONDS

“Gem-Quality Synthetic Diamonds Grown By a Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) Method” was the lead story in the Winter 2003, Volume 39 No.4 issue of **Gems & Gemology**. Apollo Diamond Inc. of Boston, MA, has succeeded in growing facet able, single crystal diamonds by a CVD process that does not require high pressures. The 13 diamonds examined by GIA were brown-to-gray and near colorless. It is hoped that these light colored diamonds can later be lightened by the high temperature/high temperature process initially developed by General Electric to yield near colorless stones.

The CVD techniques involve gas-phase chemical reactions that deposit layers of a synthetic diamond film on solid substrates. If natural or synthetic diamond is used as the substrate, single crystal diamonds can be produced.

Refer to the figure to the left. The CVD method involves bringing together the required gases—typically a small amount of methane (CH₄) in hydrogen (H₂)—in a chamber with a single crystal diamond substrate.

A reaction among the gasses is initiated at a high temperature and low pressure (between 0.0000013 atm and 1 atm). { {The reactions shown in the figure are: H₂—>2H and CH₄ + H->CH₃ + H₂ } } The reactants, products, and reactive species are transported throughout the chamber by diffusion and convection. Over the substrate surface, various reactions (adsorption, diffusion, and desorption) occur among the chemical species, leading to the deposition of synthetic diamond and ultimately, the growth of a continuous layer of synthetic diamond. This does not give enough information to grow your own, but gives the general idea. I am not quite sure how this low pressure high temperatures process really works—but it does work.

According to Apollo Diamond Inc., in their early work in 2003, it was possible to grow a colorless, single layer a few mm thick. The company is trying other variations of this technique. In the first quarter of 2004, Apollo Diamond Inc. started commercial production of these synthetic diamonds for jewelry use. Up to 1 ct brown to near-colorless faceted stones are anticipated later this year, and possibly up to 3 ct in the future; and perhaps blue diamonds in 2005. A production of 5,000 to 10,000 ct is initially planned. There was no indication of what these diamonds would cost. GIA has developed techniques to distinguish these CVD diamonds from natural diamonds.

Source: Gulf Coast Mineral, Fossil and Gem Club of Venice, Florida, Volume 3, No.7, April, 2004

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting

March 18, 2004

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were 29 members and 5 guests.

President Lou Codol announced that pictures he had taken of the club's display cases which were placed in the Main Library during the month of February, and also pictures taken during the club's show, were set out on a table at the front of the auditorium for viewing by club members.

Sue Hazelden presented the Treasurer's report for the period beginning February 1, 2004, and ending March 15, 2004. President Codol reported that he had met with the building contractor and the architect to discuss preparation of plans to be submitted to the County detailing work to be done in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for the clubhouse.

President Codol announced that Irv Thornton will accept postage stamps from members which he will prepare and submit to the Chairman of the Stamp Program of the Southeast Federation for possible eligibility of our club to participate in the annual drawing in which winning members will be selected to attend classes at Wildacres or William Holland. Hugh and Leona Sheffield, who are co-chairpersons of the Youth Resources Committee of the Southeastern Federation, reported that they had represented the Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society at the meeting of the Executive Board of the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies at Jackson, Mississippi, on February 28. They also will be representing our club at the next meeting in May. They reported briefly on the challenge to stimulate interest of young people in our hobby.

President Codol requested that the club member who asked him to cut a green rock, please contact him so that he can return the cut rock to him. Following the business meeting club members viewed a video presentation entitled "Russian Gem Treasures." Refreshments were provided by club members.

Wilda Bisset
Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of Board Meeting

April 6, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Lou Codol. Board members present were: Sue Black, Sylvia Grant, Sue Hazelden, Walt Upman, and Wilda Bisset. Not present were Jean Bush, Pat Davis, and Jeanne Larrison. Also present were Debra Bremer, Editor of the Rock-A-Gram, and club member Bob Tice.

A motion was made by Sue Hazelden and seconded by Sylvia Grant that the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on March 2, 2004, be approved subject to publication of the following correction to the third paragraph: "Due to the absence of Sue Hazelden, Treasurer, the Treasurer's report was not presented." Motion carried.

Sue Hazelden presented a corrected Treasurer's report for the period February 1, 2004, through March 15, 2004. She also presented a proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005. Motion was made by Sylvia Grant and seconded by Walt Upman that the proposed budget be approved. Motion carried.

Sue Hazelden reported that the audit of the club's books had been completed by Pat Davis, and Joanne Cordes. Everything was determined to be in order.

Items to be considered in planning for the club's 35th annual show in 2005 were discussed briefly. Action on these items was postponed to a later date.

President Codol asked that Jeanne Larrison, Corresponding Secretary, convey a message of thanks on behalf of the club to Vivian Reese, and Dr. David Levine for their generous contributions.

President Codol discussed follow-up plans with the builder and architect for work necessary to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy from the County. A work day was scheduled for April 24th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the clubhouse to accomplish necessary tasks. Sue Hazelden presented a suggestion from Jack Hazelden that when the clubhouse is available for occupancy a table be set up displaying items available for purchase by club members. Action was postponed to a future date.

President Codol announced that members will be able to enter the meeting room at the Azalea Recreation Center at 6:00 p.m. on May 20th, to set up tables and make preparations for the club's pot luck dinner, and program which will begin at 7:00 p.m. Installation of Officers for the coming year will be conducted. Additional information will be announced at the General Meeting on April 15.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m..

Wilda Bisset
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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The Beverly Fleming Gallery

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 the Azalea Adult Center; 1600 72nd Street North, St. Petersburg, Florida. 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: \$10.00 single or \$15.00 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

Board Meeting:

(September - May)

First Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

Cabbing Classes:

TBA

Clubhouse Maintenance:

TBA

Faceting, Silversmithing,

Wire Wrapping Classes:

By appointment