

ROCK-A-GRAM



June-Septemer, 2006



Volume 38, No. 1, Page 1

General Meeting

Thursday, September 21, 2006

7:30 p.m.

Azalea Adult Center
1600 72nd Street North
St. Petersburg

Program:

Show and Tell

Bring in rocks or minerals that you have dug up, or something you have made during the summer. We would also love to hear about your travels during the summer too. This is a show and tell meeting, so bring your rocks and share your stories.

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



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

David Cordes, President 727-443-4706
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 1227-S Hillcrest Ave.
 Clearwater, FL 33756

Bill Schmidt, Vice President 727-822-8279
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 3698 18th Avenue North
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 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

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 15666-49th Street N. #1153
 Clearwater, FL 33762

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 1018 35th Street North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Sue Black, Past President 727-345-8994
 6854 Criswell Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33709

Debra Bremer, Editor 727-298-0061
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.

New Members:

Kathleen & Ken Rosenberger
 727-787-0636
 3466 Woodridge Parkway
 Palm Harbor, FL 34684

Michael "Dusty" Anderson
 727-525-8677
 4877 49th Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33714

Alice Mann
 727-323-2964
 4838-2nd Ave., N
 St. Petersburg, FL 33713

**Deepest Sympathy**

Mimi White one of the founding members of our club passed away on May 26th. Mimi was the wife of Woody White, who also passed away a few years ago. Woody and Mimi and several "rock hound" friends started the Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society. Mimi and Woody created many pieces of jewelry that were sold in local jewelry stores. From cutting and mounting stones, to faceting, to stringing pearls, there was little the two of them could not do. Mimi joined the Tampa Bay Porcelain Artists guild. She was always winning first, second, and third place ribbons in the Florida State Fair for her paintings. Mimi was an expert and teacher of sewing, knitting, crocheting, and tatting.

Mimi had it tough for the last several years, but always looked beyond her own needs to the needs of her family and others. She was very active in her church and beliefs. She will be missed very much by all who knew and loved her.

DUES ARE NOW DUE...

Single membership is \$15, and family membership is \$20. This amount was approved by the members at the general meeting on April 21, 2005, effective September, 2005. PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THIS CHANGE.

Upcoming Shows

Lodestar July/August, 2006

The Coral Geode, September, 2006

October 14-15: Orlando

Florida Fossil Hunters Fossil, Mineral, and Gem Show, Central Florida Fairgrounds 4603 W. Colonial Drive

Hours: 14th - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

15th - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 28-29: Tampa

47th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club
State Fairgrounds, Special Events Center
M.L. King Blvd., just west of US Hwy. 301

Hours: 28th - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

29th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

November 4-5: Ft. Pierce

St. Lucie County Rock and Gem Show
St. Lucie County Fairgrounds, Midway Road

Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

November 11-12: Melbourne

Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society
Melbourne Auditorium
625 Hibiscus Ave.

Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

November 18-19: West Palm Beach

EFMLS Show & 40th Annual Show of the Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center

Hours: 18th - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

19th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

December 11-12: Deland

Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society, Gem and Mineral Show, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Tommy Lawrence Arena, State Road 44 (one-mile east of I-4, Exit 118)

Hours: 11th - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

12th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FEDERATION NEWS

A.F.M.S. Newsletter, Vol. 59, #8 September, 2006

www.AMFED.org**2006 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions****Eastern Federation**

November 17-19

West Palm Beach, FL

2007 Regional Federation Shows & Conventions**California Federation**

June 15-17

Lancaster, CA

Eastern Federation

October 6-7

Newark, NY

Northwest Federation

August 3-5

Butte, MT

Rocky Mountain Federation

June 7-10

Roswell, NM

20th Annual World's Champion Quartz Crystal Dig Mount Ida, Arkansas**October 12, 13, & 14**

\$1,500 prize money to top five winners in each division, crystal points and crystal clusters. Pre-registration fee \$75 prior to October 1st, after October 1 - \$90, keep all you dig, three days to dig. For more information call or write: Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 6, Mount Ida, Arkansas 71957, (870)867-2723, E-mail: Director@mtidachamber.com, www.mtidachamber.com

Field Trip

(Coral Geode, September 2006)

Vulcan Mine

October 14, and November 11,

This is a joint trip with the Tampa Fossil Club. Be at the main gate to the mine by 8:45 a.m. We will caravan in together. Call (813) 892-5864 Fred Hendershot if you are interested in participating in this field trip. Fred is with the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club. You can call Fred for directions. Bring buckets to hold your fossil echinoids and sea urchins, chert and calcite. Vulcan is mostly surface collecting, but a rock hammer, small shovel, knife or screwdriver come in handy for digging imbedded specimens. Bring snacks and beverages, sun protection and work gloves, and wear old clothes and sturdy shoes. We will stay until about 2:00 p.m., weather permitting.

WORKSHOP OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE!

There is still time to register for SFMS fall workshops at Wildacres (September) and William Holland (October).

If you haven't been to one of these workshops, you owe it to yourself to go. You will spend an entire week focusing on one aspect of our hobby. Wildacres is located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Little Switzerland, NC. If you can look up long enough from your projects, you will find incredible mountain views and much cooler temperatures than we have here. September 18-24th class offerings at Wildacres are:

Gem Appreciation with Ben Smith; Glass Bead Making with Marilyn Jobe; Intarsia with Tom Wilke; Mineral Identification with Betty James; Opal Cutting with Sara Lee Boyce; Precious Metal Clay 2 with Ken and Mary Ann DeVos; Scrimshaw with Bill Wetzel; Southwest Silversmithing with Dan Haga; Stained Glass 2 (rock slabs) with Julia Larson; and Beginning Wire with Carol Penry.

The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts sits on a mountain in north Georgia near the North Carolina border, about 2 hours northeast of Atlanta. This lodge has an elevator from the room level to the classrooms. The October 8-14th classes and instructors are:

Intermediate Glass Bead Making, Marilyn Jobe; Cabochons, Anita Westlake; Chain Making, John Reynolds; Fused Glass, Addy DePietro; Lost Wax Casting, John Iacullo; Opal Cutting, Joe DePietro; Seed Beads, Jo Harrison; Beginning Silversmithing, Bill Cady; Advanced Silversmithing, Dan Haga; Wire Weaving, Linda Chandler; Wirecraft Sculpture, Evelyn Gantnier.

Instructors volunteer their time so you can learn new skills and practice old ones. The rooms are comfortable and the meals are great at both places. You will meet new friends and renew old acquaintances during the week, which is sure to be one of the fastest of your life.

For more information, visit www.amfed.org/sfms, or email juliamlarson@earthlink.net, or call her at 727-522-1254.



Seed Beading Class at Wildacres

What do you think of when you hear the words "seed beading"? A bunch of old ladies sitting around with magnifying glasses and making pouches with really tiny beads? Well, if the August seed beading class at Wildacres is any indication, you've got another think coming. Instructor Vivian Heath and her six students combined seed beads and other materials to create absolutely gorgeous jewelry. It was listed as a beginning class, but the projects they turned out were exquisitely detailed and professional. Delicate feathers, leather details, and silver and gold findings came together under their skilled fingers and resulted in original creations that were truly breathtaking. Watch for her classes at next year's workshops. You will be delighted and amazed if you sign up.

SFMS 2006 William Holland Workshop at Young Harris, Georgia

2006 Workshop Dates

June.....Sunday, June 11 to Saturday, June 17, 2006

October..Sunday, October 8 to Saturday, October 14, 2006

Check in is on Sunday after 3 p.m. and departure is Saturday morning after breakfast.

The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts is situated on a mountain in north Georgia near the North Carolina border. The facility includes a two-story main building known as the Sparks Lodge with 29 air-conditioned bedrooms on the upper floor. A second lodge is located nearby with 22 additional air-conditioned bedrooms. All bedrooms are motel-like with private baths and two beds. Two rooms are equipped for the handicapped.

The lower, ground level of the Sparks Lodge houses 13 classrooms, the kitchen, and dining room. This floor is completely air-conditioned, and a new elevator permits easy access to both floors.

There are two other buildings that make up the retreat complex: the Seabolt Building, which houses the George Kasper Memorial Library as well as showers and restroom facilities for the campground, and Mary Lou's Cottage, to house the instructional staff. The campground has 10 full hook-up spaces for RV's up to 40 feet in length.

Fees

Lodge accommodations: \$310 per person double occupancy, including meals. **Single room:** \$470.

Day Students: \$140 per person, no meals are included.

Campground Students: \$120 hookup (including 2 persons; \$25 per additional person), \$140 per person for classes. No meals are included but are available directly from the retreat.

Meals: Breakfast \$5, lunch \$6, dinner \$7.

Registration Procedures

Applications from members of SFMS clubs will be accepted first; however, members of other AFMS clubs may apply and will be scheduled following SFMS applicants.

Applications will be accepted beginning on January 17, 2006 for both sessions. The postmark date on or after this date determines the order of acceptance. **First-time attendees have an extra priority.**

Students under age 18 are welcome, but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult and must be approved by the workshop director and instructor.

Reservation Deposit

A non-refundable administrative fee of \$50 per person must accompany all applications. The full amount may be remitted with the application if the applicant wishes. (It is easier for the Registrar.) The balance is due 4 weeks before the workshop begins. **No reminders will be sent.**

Cancellation Policy

There is a \$50 nonrefundable charge to cover administrative costs. An additional \$50 charge will be assessed for cancellations made less than 4 weeks before a session begins. No refund will be returned for cancellations within 7 days of the start of a session. A minimum of three students must be enrolled in a particular class to support the cost of the class. No fee will be charged if a class is canceled. No adjustment will be made for late arrival or early departure.

Workshop Directors

Dana and Ray Gonzalez
6226 Seaton Drive, Columbus, GA 31909
Phone: 706-327-4474 Email: drj@mchsi.com

Workshop Registrars

Sonia Arnold and Charlotte Caughman
P.O. Box 268, Brevard, NC 28712
Phone: 828-883-2029 or 864-473-0317
Email: whregistrars@gmail.com.

Session 1: June 11-17, 2006

Chainmaking, Beginning	Dee/Bill Corybear
Faceting, Beginning	David Com
Fused Glass	Addy DePietro
Lost Wax Casting	Fred Sias
Opal Cutting	Joe DePietro
Origami	Hideko Pezant
Polymer Clay	Marilyn Jobe
Seed Beading	Kathy Morris
*Silversmithing, Advanced	Dan Haga
Silversmithing, Beginning	Allen Jewell
Stained Glass 1	Julia Larson
Wirecraft, Beginning	Lisa Roberts
*Wirecraft, Advanced	Linda Chandler

Session 2: October 8-14, 2006

*Glass Bead Making, Intermediate	Marilyn Jobe
Cabochons	Anita Westlake
Chain Making	John Runkle
Fused Glass	Addy DePietro
Lost-wax Casting	John Iacullo
Opal Cutting	Joe DePietro
Seed Beads	Jo Harrison
*Silversmithing, Advanced	Dan Haga
Silversmithing, Beginning	Bill Cady
*Wire Weaving	Linda Chandler
*Wirecraft Sculpture	Evelyn Gantnier

***Note: Advanced courses with prerequisites are designated with an asterisk .**

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting

May 17, 2006

The annual end of year dinner meeting was held at the Azalea Center. Attendance was somewhat less than usual.

President Dave Cordes mentioned the status of the clubhouse renovation plans, saying a few relatively minor changes needed to be made by the architect before the plans could be submitted to the zoning board.

Sue Hazelden advised the membership that our request for property tax exempt status was denied, as the appraisal board determined the club did not meet the criteria as an educational institution.

Bill Schmidt will be working at the clubhouse during the summer. He will be there on Tuesday nights in case members want to use the machines, and he will also be doing general maintenance on the machines.

The 2007 slate of officers was introduced to the membership. The new officers are:

President: Dave Cordes
Vice President: Bill Schmidt
Past President: Sue Black
Treasurer: Sue Hazelden
Corresponding Secretary: Walt Upman
Recording Secretary: Julia Larson
3 Year Director: Evie Loster
2 Year director: Terry Bogard
1 Year Director: Gil Wegand
Newsletter Editor: Debbie Bremer

Submitted by:

Julia Larson

Corresponding Secretary

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting
August 1, 2006

The board met in a special session to consider the clubhouse issues and other matters. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were President Dave Cordes, who chaired the meeting, and Bill Schmidt, Sue Black, Sue Hazelden, Walt Upman, Evie Loster, and Julia Larson.

Dave stated that during the summer, there had been issues with getting the architect to follow through in making the necessary changes to the plans. Several board members had been discussing whether to contact one of the local television stations to ask for their assistance through one of their consumer programs. This information had been relayed to Mr. Killion, who had in turn advised Mr. Jager of this possibility. Mr. Killion had phoned Sue Hazelden this afternoon (August 1) that he had picked up the plans from Mr. Jager and was prepared to take them to the county zoning commission on August 2 after he (Killion) had reviewed them. The suggestion to contact the television stations was tabled for later discussion should we encounter additional problems with the plans. Mr. Killion said most of the changes were minor in nature and should not impose much additional cost.

Sue Hazelden presented the end of year treasurer's report which was accepted for audit on a unanimous vote. She also said the CD was due for rollover September 4. Since we may be using some of this money for construction costs during the next quarter, the board voted not to roll it over at this time, but to place it in a new money market account where it would be readily available.

Sue Hazelden said the Azalea meeting site for 2007 has been confirmed. She also mentioned that the insurance company needed verification of proper mounting of our fire extinguishers. Since they have not been inspected recently, Bill and Dave volunteered to handle this.

Dave and Sue Black initiated a discussion about the 2007 show, specifically the postcards for vendors, advertising, flyers, etc. Committee assignments for the show and the club were discussed. Evie volunteered to take over the duties of membership chair from Sue Hazelden.

Julia discussed the lack of participation in the Federation workshops and asked for suggestions. Several ideas were discussed and will be passed on to the Education Committee at the SFMS meeting in Nashville later this month. Julia will be attending as the upcoming Education Chair and the official SGAMS club proxy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m..

Submitted by:
Julia Larson
Recording Secretary

Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Minutes of Board Meeting

September 5, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were: Dave Cordes, Sue Black, Sue Hazelden, Gil Wegand, Walt Upman, Bill Schmidt, Debbie Bremer, Evie Loster and Julia Larson. Minutes from the August 1st board meeting were read and approved.

The following reports were given: Sue Black: Money from the vendors for next year's show is coming in and all will be paid by January. The flyers need to be done by October. Bill Schmidt is handling the physical setup and Mary Abel is in charge of demonstrators. We need a new security company for this show. Bill and Sue Black will work on finding one that is acceptable.

Sue Hazelden: The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted for audit. Last year's audit was completed by the primary auditor and is under review by the second. Members discussed the various options for maximizing return on the club's funds while we engage in renovations for the clubhouse. The property tax will be due in December. Sue has requested display space from the library for next February. Don Schlough sent two boxes of rocks for club use. She also mentioned the Rock & Gem listing has some errors; the corrected information has to be submitted to the magazine by January. Walt Upman will handle this. Sue has made repeated attempts to contract life members M/M Carpenter with no response. She recommended dropping them from the roster. The board voted to make it so.

Julia Larson: Attended the SFMS quarterly meeting in Nashville in August. The entire Education Committee was present and held a lengthy meeting focusing on several areas, but primarily on the dwindling attendance at the workshops. Several new approaches are being planned for the 2007 workshops, including a Family Week at the June session at William Holland. More on this when the schedule is finalized. The Education Committee will start relying on newsletter editors to publish more information regarding the workshops and to make sure this information is available each month at their club meetings.

Dave Cordes: The clubhouse situation remains stalled. The plans were to be returned to the architect for two minor changes, but Mr. Killion, who is handling this, has been injured and Dave has not been able to contact him. He will try to visit Mr. Killion at home during the next week or so, to see what the situation is. The fire extinguisher question remains open. We will probably have to purchase new ones, since the ones we have are quite old. Dave and Bill will handle this.

Dave also discussed the club's website, which currently is only partially accessible. Debbie will look into this. Dave asked about the program she used for the newsletter (PageMaker), and Debbie agreed to copy an entire edition on a disk and get it to Dave.

Dave purchased some sign holders and will have signs made for committees, grounds work, etc., which will be displayed at each meeting.

Additional discussion on the clubhouse ensued and was tabled until the next board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m..

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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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: \$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

Board Meeting:

(September - May)

First Tuesday: 7:30 p.m.

Cabbing Classes:

TBA

Clubhouse Maintenance:

TBA

Faceting, Silversmithing,

Wire Wrapping Classes:

By appointment