

CORAL GEMSTONE



A Publication of the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club

DECEMBER

HOT ROCKS, COOL GEMS & FABULOUS JEWELRY

2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

President Elect's Message.....	2
T-Shirts Available.....	2
Home Shops	3
Lapidary Corner	4
Brad's Bench Tips.....	5
Gemstone Fun Facts.....	6

ABOUT OUR CLUB

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TAMPABAYROCKCLUB.ORG



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ken Moser

Hello everyone! I hope this message finds you healthy and sane. Can't believe we are in December already. Time still flies whether you're having fun or not.

This will be my last presidents' message as my term is up. Two years ago, I took over the presidency with the hope of making the club better. It is still my hope that you, our members, consider that I have.

Physically, we are in a better place. The building has had many upgrades. We have a new roof, painting is complete, areas organized and improved, display cases are being organized and upgraded, library is being organized and digitized and Mike took it upon himself to improve the outside appearance of the building. Thanks Mike.

Next task is to paint the outside.

Mentally we have weathered the stress of Covid. We opened the clubhouse responsibly; we have held our annual show (Not many clubs can say that) and classes are filling up once

again. We even attracted many new members to the club at the show. The future is continually getting brighter,

We did say goodbye to some long-time members this past year. Cindy Falandysz and Jan Hendershot will be missed. Even though they are no longer here they still continue to look out for the club through their knowledge and donations.

Next year promises to be a better year. Your newly elected officers and board members for next year will continue to have the welfare of its members and the club as its core. It will be nice for the club to have some new faces, new ideas, and renewed energy to move it forward. You're in good hands.

I'll end this as I have ended it now for many months. Hopefully during this time, you have found time to work on new projects and complete ones already in progress. Whether jewelry, or just chores around the house, there certainly has been the time to work on them. Elsewhere you

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can find my latest stained-glass piece that will hang at the Florida Aquarium. Already thinking about my next project.

Speaking of the Aquarium, it is a great, safe place to go visit if you are looking to get out of the house. Weekdays have very few visitors so social distancing is not an issue.

So, until we meet again and are past this virus, stay well, practice good hygiene and keep your distance.

Ken Moser

TBM&SC T-Shirts Available



Looking for an easy way to promote the club or searching for that perfect gift? Look no further than your Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club.

Sizes Available:

S, M, L, XL \$10

XXL \$12

XXXL \$14

PRESIDENT ELECT'S MESSAGE

Gerri Lundergan

Sits down and makes outline. Notes on goals, thoughts, info, Thank You's, ideas and plans for 2021.

Erase, backspace, erase, delete, cut, paste,

Starts over...

Trying to write my first Pre-introductory Club President's Message.

The first order of business is to Thank Ken Moser for a great 2 years. He had some challenges to work thru. No one expected a virus, just as plans for expansion were progressing forward. Then to have to close the clubhouse. With expansion plans curbed; out came the paint brushes and reworking the inside of the clubhouse.

So, as Ken hands the reins over to me, we will continue with the Club Beautification Project. It has been a great way for members to jump in and share their talents.

Each member has something to bring to the table. Part of what makes a club or organization great is when those talents are shared with the membership. We are looking forward to adding more classes, additional instructors (to offer more days, smaller class numbers and stop Instructor Burn Out).

Welcome to all our New Members. We enjoyed meeting you at our Club Show. Chatting with you we listened to your interests, class areas you are interested in and your areas of knowledge that we are looking forward to you adding to the club.

Classes have been starting back. We are following Covid Guidelines, scheduling more days with fewer class numbers has been working. If we continue to work together, our clubhouse can remain open and relief from cabin fever can be averted.

FaceTime is available for those who would like to ask a question about something you are working on for those of us who have that capability on our phones.

At our show, I chatted with several folks who had some great ideas, class ideas and were happy to share their craft. As we gather the info, get with interested Instructors and plan with the Board – our abilities to have more offerings for our members grows.

For those who do not know a lot about me – my degree is in Retail Management/Marketing/Fashion Design. Minor in Agri-

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business. The Love of horses and raising 2 boys gave way to staying home on the farm. Growing up in Northern California we always brought rocks home from all our rodeos, horse shows and camping/fishing trips.

After 40 years of training horses and one stupid trip and fall, my back finally said enough. Rocks were now taking a front page in my life from the part-time hobby of the past. I want to thank Tony Carrino for inviting me to join many moons ago. All those Wire Wrapping classes were paying off along with the new addition of learning to cab.

Going forward, I encourage your ideas about classes, things you would like to learn and other positive ideas to keep your clubhouse growing and remaining open.

Have a Very Merry Christmas – Happy Hanukkah – Kwanza or other holiday you celebrate and we will see you in the New Year.

We are going to miss having our Annual Christmas Party, but, if things keep moving forward next year's will be one for the record books.

You can always reach me by email or phone and when necessary smoke signal!
Gerri Lundergan
dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com -
813-943-5665 - Facetime on messenger and Instagram.

KEEP THE HOME SHOPS WORKING

Since club classes are limited and by appointment, we want to see what you are creating at home.

Send your creations to JHeerx6@aol.com to be featured in the next Geode

Karen Kulas



LAPIDARY CORNER

with Gerri Lundergan



It has been quite a ride this year. Clubhouse open- club house closed – clubhouse open.

Lapidary has continued to keep its Beginning Cabochon classes full with a waiting list.

Lapidary will remain

Open thru December, since the clubhouse was closed thru the summer, everyone wants to make up for lost time.

Since we are not able to offer our Monthly Workshops (due to smaller numbers required) we have taken all the information and put it into Cabochons 2, Cab 3 and Cab 4 classes. This offers our members a way to continue learning & keep everyone challenged.

Here are the Outlines:

Cab 2- Even Angled Girdles: necessary for setting or beading a more even line, Calibrated stones, learning to do an Epoxy fill on pits/druzy, Mexican Fire Opal and a basic composite.

Cab 3 – Doublets/Triplets, Basic Stabilizing, Scroll inlay

Cab 4 – Hearts, Jade, Opals, Rutiles.

I have also worked out a deal with Cab King & Hi-Tech Diamond for current members. Members can receive a 15% discount on supplies they order when they are not offering their Special Sales. This discount does not include machines.

Exciting News in the Slabbing Department. Peter has 2 apprentices he is teaching to slab. This is a big help with all the rock we cut. We will be starting our Slab Auctions up again after the beginning of the year. Keep an eye on the Facebook page for announcements.

Member Slabbing is running about 2-3 weeks. Peter will be gone thru the holidays, so slabbing will be on hold until after the first of the year.

Slabs are available for members to purchase on Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m. We are currently setting up slab trays for easier shopping.

Plus, we have restocked the idea totes.

- We want to thank the Falandysz family for donating all of Cindy's slabs and rock to the club. It was separated and part of it sold at our show, while the rest has been added to our Member Slabs for member purchase.
- We also want to Thank the Hendershots who have donated several boxes of rock to the rock pile & club sale slabs.

In addition, we want to thank Irene Potter for taking on the reorganization of our Display Minerals. The inside of the cases have been painted black, new LED lighting has been added & Antonio Nazario has assisted with adding ID tags, setting them up by state and area. This is extremely exciting for our beautiful club rock collection.



Lapidary class work

As always – keep an eye on the Facebook page for current updates.

The next Beginning Cabochon classes will start in January 2021.

Contact Gerri Lundergan for info about Classes. dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com or 813-943-5665
Call, text or smoke signal!



Faceting - Charlene Fosselman



Calibrated Cabs in the Cabs 2 Class



BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.



Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc., but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet

metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the picture above that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto a silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



Wishing you happy holidays.
Hopefully 2021 will be a better year.

Brad Smith
-BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books:
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)





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GEMSTONE FUN FACTS

Gemstones are fascinating creations. They are (usually) naturally occurring and are beautiful works of art in nature.

- Garnet was named after the seeds of a pomegranate.
- Amber is the softest gemstone; diamond is the hardest.
- The largest diamond found in the United States, to date, is known as the Uncle Sam Diamond.
- It takes anywhere from one to three years to grow a cultured pearl.
- The Queen of England's jewelry collection is worth an estimated \$57 million dollars.
- In the Middle Ages, women would wear Opals to protect the color of their blonde hair.
- Peridot was Cleopatra's favorite gemstone.
- After millions upon millions of years, it is assumed that the Sun will become one large diamond-star!
- The Heart of the Ocean, from James Cameron's "Titanic" was not completely fictitious - it is believed that a rather large sapphire went down with Titanic on that fateful night.
- One of the largest sapphires is known as the Star of Asia, which is currently housed at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

Please continue to practice current Social Distancing guidelines and enjoying sharing your work through video chats, Facetime, or YouTube.
Stay Safe! Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club Board