

THE CORAL GEODE

September 2025



**A diamond in the rough.
Do you see it?** Page 8

Photo by Scott and Jennifer Freitas

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TBMSC COMMITTEES

The Coral Geode newsletter:

Lyra Solochek, editor/designer

Show:

Lyra Solochek (chair), Brenda Gregory, Cindy Britten, Linda Collins

Membership:

Christy Gorrow, director

Social media

and advertising:

Lyra Solochek, Miles Bhavé, Brenda Gregory

Webmaster:

Lyra Solochek, Miles Bhavé

Field trip:

Carlo Lucin, chair

Program coordinator:

Lyra Solochek

Sunshine:

Brenda Gregory

Education/youth:

Cindy Britten

Landscape:

Brenda Gregory, Carlo Lucin

Election Nomination:

Patti Kepple, Miles Bhavé, Leah Welch

President's message

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. Our club just had the best tailgate and biggest members meeting I can remember. Our terrific speakers who taught us about rockhounding were impressive. They included Lyra and Jeff Solochek, Michelle Wacker and Miles Bhavé. We also had special guests to talk about their find in Arkansas. Their presentations were very well received and we thank them.

Our Landscaping Committee — Carlo Lucin and Brenda Gregory — was very active in cleaning the front of the building and walkway, and digging out the dirt and replacing it with rubber mulch. It looks wonderful!

We have a new Show Committee consisting of four members now which will be “taking care of business”.

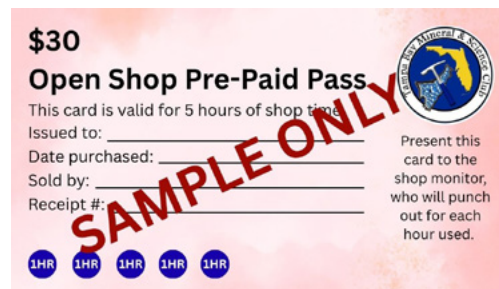
We continue to gather quotes for work on the building to improve accessibility. Unfortunately we have learned that our air conditioner (aged 15 years old) is on its last legs. We now have the additional expense of replacing it for which I hope to have three quotes this week.

As a result of this unexpected expense I am requesting that our members chip in. If you can please make a donation to the club to help with the costs. You can send your donations via PayPal. Please add “building donation” in the comment section. I thank you all.



Ellen Sisco
President

Introducing prepaid cards for frequent open-shoppers



Do you want to avoid the hassle of paying for open shop each time you visit? You can buy Prepaid Shop Cards (PSC) and use them as you visit the club. Write “PSC” under payment when you sign into Metal, Lapidary or Faceting Open Shops, then present your card to the monitor who will punch out the number of hours used.

The cards will come in three price points:

- 5 hours for \$30
- 10 hours for \$60
- 20+1 bonus for \$120.

These are approximately business card-size, easy to keep in your wallet. And there is no expiration date.

We will start using these cards in September. If you're interested, you can purchase them at the Quarterly Members Meeting on Sept. 6, or with a club officers any time after that.

These prepaid cards are for only Metal, Faceting and Lapidary.

You can still pay for Open Shop by cash, PayPal or credit card if you prefer.



ABOUT OUR CLUB



Address:
10207 Fisher Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33619



Email:
info@tampabayrockclub.
org



Phone:
(813) 684-2039



Website:
tampabayrockclub.org



Calendar

Want to join the club leadership?

It's time to start thinking about the leadership election for 2026. Nominations will be accepted through October. Voting will begin in November and close at the December members meeting.

Seats opening up are:

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Three seats on the board of directors

If you are interested in running for any of these seats, please send an email to tampamineral@gmail.com with "Election" in the subject line. Or contact members of the Nomination Committee: board members Miles Bhavé and Patti Kepple, or club member Leah Welch.



TABLE CRAFTS

Beads and wires on Wednesdays



Table Crafts has two sessions on Wednesdays. We meet in the afternoon from 1-4 p.m. and again in the evening from 6-9 p.m. All are welcome.

The afternoon group is currently working on a loom project with 11/0 Delica beads. Most of the evening group is working on peyote stitch bracelets, but we have some adventurous souls who are trying Viking Knit and square stitch.

Class fees are \$10 for 3 hours. We have a few supplies for purchase, but most people prefer to purchase their own materials, so they have the colors of their choice. We have some great finished projects that the makers are very proud of. I also can teach Kumihimo, chaining, and most forms of beading including peyote stitch (odd count, even count, tubular, and Peyote with a twist), square stitch, brick stitch, Cellini spiral, and loom work.

Want to know what these are? If you are curious about what these techniques are, come in and visit, check out what we're doing and see if you'd like to join the group. There are a number of examples in the case by the front door or come and visit us, we'd love to show off our work. If you can't come on Wednesday, contact me about the possibility of a Saturday or Sunday session.

— Christy Gorrow, cgorrow@juno.com

CLASS REFUND POLICY

- **Registration & Deposits:** Class signups are handled through Signup Genius. A deposit is required to reserve a spot.
- **Refund Eligibility:** To receive a full refund, participants must notify the Tampa Mineral and Science Club at least 14 days before the first day of class.
- **Rescheduling:** Students may choose to either receive a full refund or reschedule once to a different class date.
- **Emergency Cancellations:** In case of an emergency, a refund may be possible if the Club is notified at least 10 days before the class.
- **Processing Fee:** A 10% cancellation fee will be deducted from all refunds.
- **Transfers:** Class registration can be transferred once to another class of equal value. To request a refund or transfer, email tampamineral@gmail.com with your name, and for transfers, include the title and date of the class you'd like to attend instead.
- **No-Shows:** No refunds or credits will be issued for no-call, no-show participants.
- **Club Cancellations:** If the Club cancels a class, all registered participants will receive a full refund.

Get ready for our fall show!

Our biggest event of the season is almost here — mark your calendars for November 1-2! With nearly 60 vendors already confirmed, this year's 66th annual Fall Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show is shaping up to be another fantastic event.

As we head into the final stretch, there's a lot to do — and we'll need your help to make it all happen!

Here's how you can help:

Saturday, Oct. 25 (starting at 9 a.m.): Help us pack bins for transport to the Florida State Fairgrounds.

Friday, Oct. 31: Volunteers are needed to set up club tables at the venue.

Show Days – Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 1-2: We need helpers to work shifts during the show and to give live demos.

A Signup Genius link will be shared next month for all show-related volunteer shifts. Please be sure to sign up and lend a hand where you can.

Let's make this year's show the best one yet!

SAVE THE DATES!



66TH ANNUAL FALL GEM, MINERAL, & JEWELRY SHOW

NOV. 1-2, 2025
Florida State Fairgrounds,
Tampa, Florida

FACETING

You, too, can learn to facet a beautiful gemstone

Beginning Faceting

- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 13-14, 2025
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 4-5, 2025
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 22-23, 2025

Click here
to sign up



This is a two-day class on cutting faceted gemstones (transparent stones similar in appearance to diamonds). You will learn how to choose cutting material, dop the stone, cut and polish facets, transfer a stone, and proper operation and care of a faceting machine. Each student will complete one stone.

Cost is \$230 total, which includes materials, instructor fee, club shop time and use of machines. A deposit of \$130 is required to reserve a seat. The balance of \$100 should be paid directly to the instructor on the first day of class.

Each student should have his/her own Optivisor to closely examine the stone during the cutting process. These are available on Amazon or Harbor Freight. You must wear closed-toed shoes. No loose clothing and long hair must be tied back.



Big turnout for September members meeting and tailgate



Thanks to all the members who attended the September members meeting, tailgate and presentation. It was wonderful to see you all.

The tailgate was well attended and was one of the biggest we've had. The club had lots to offer in the destash sale: collectors plates, tools, jewelry-related items, beads, books, etc. We made more than \$500 from sales to benefit the club. So, thank you to all.

We followed the tailgate with a quick quarterly members meeting, followed by a presentation on summer rockhounding adventures.

We also welcomed special guests, Scott and Jennifer Freitas from New Port Richey, who shared with the group their experience at the Crater of Diamonds in Arkansas in July. They brought their recent find: a 3.36-carat white diamond. How often do we get to see an actual Arkansas diamond in person?

See next page for more rockhounding adventures.

ROCKHOUNDING

Summer adventures

From the quartz-rich hills of Arkansas to the sapphire streams of Montana, club members spent the summer chasing treasures across the country. At our quarterly meeting on Sept. 6, Michelle Wacker, Miles Bhawe, and Jeff and Lyra Solochek shared stories and highlights from their rockhounding trips through Arkansas, Idaho, Montana, and New York. We were also joined by special guests Scott and Jennifer Freitas, who revealed the details of an incredible discovery they made in Arkansas.

Over the next few newsletters, we'll be spotlighting the mines and moments that made these trips unforgettable—starting this month with Arkansas.

ARKANSAS — Quartz mines

By Jeffrey Solochek

Can't collect enough crystal clear quartz points? Let your travels take you to western Arkansas.

The Mount Ida area near the Ouachita National Forest is dotted with mines that will satisfy beginning rock hounds and the more seasoned collectors alike. You can make a day of scouring the tailings or attacking a pocket, almost certain to walk away with a bucket filled with gleaming stones.

And you're not far from Hot Springs to soak your aches away.

A recent five-day trip offered some insights into the ins and outs of working the mines.

First, come prepared. At the very least, bring some basic tools — a 5-gallon bucket, a hand rake, a mallet, a heavy duty screwdriver or chisel, a crowbar and a plastic tent stake. Yes, tent stake. We'll get to that in a minute. Also, be sure to wear a hat, have some gloves and bring water or a sports drink and snacks. They don't have vending machines out there.

Many of the mines open to the public have options. You can pay a small fee for a few hours of walking through the tailings and digging in open spaces. Or you can pay more for them to open a pocket for you.

If you're not looking to spend hours hammering and chiseling away at a rock wall, the tailings might do it for you. On our first visit, just a couple of steps into the mine we looked down to find a perfect point just sitting there glistening up. They're hard to miss. Since they're like clear glass, when they're in the dirt you look through



Wegner Crystal Mine



Jeff working on a pocket. Red clay in the seam is an indicator. Use a plastic stake to gently remove crystals.

Continued on next page

MINES WE VISITED

Wegner Crystal Mines

wegnercrystalmines.com
82 Wegner Crystal Ranch
Rd, Mt Ida, AR 71957
Regular quartz mine: \$19
per person for each two-
hour slot
Phantom quartz mine: \$60
per person for four hours

Avant Crystal Mine

www.avantfishermtn.com
11 Logan Gap Rd, Mt Ida,
AR 71957
\$25 per person

Twin Creek Crystal Mine

www.facebook.com/twin-creekmine
Collier Springs Rd #177, Mt
Ida, AR 71957
\$25 per person for tailings,
\$300 and up for pocket digs

OTHER MINES IN THE AREA

Ron Coleman Mine (tailings only)

www.roncolemanmining.com
211 Crystal Ridge Ln,
Jessieville, AR 71949

Avatar Crystal Mine

www.facebook.com/Avatar-CrystalMine
Forest Road W 37 Off, Ow-
ley Rd, Mt Ida, AR 71957

I Me Mine

www.imeminerals.com
Jessieville, AR

Crystal Vista

[Mt. Ida, AR](http://Mt.Ida.AR)
Public land. Free

The Willie Rickard Rock Farm

thewillierickardrockfarm@gmail.com
(501) 209-6454
Paron, AR
\$30 hand dig. Call in ad-
vance for meeting location

Rubie Mine

(The mine recently went up
for sale. If it opens to the
public, this place is a must.)
Mt. Ida, AR

Continued from previous page

them, so they look almost black. But there's a sparkle when the sun hits them, too.

Going after a rain helps, as the water exposes many more rocks. You can see where the rain streamed through, and if you follow those rivulets, you're bound to find several points. Dark red clay also is a signal that what you're looking for is likely near.

But maybe you're looking for something bigger, or more challenging. You can pay for a pocket, or you might just come across one that's already been exposed but hasn't been fully explored.

It's not easy work, but it can be so gratifying to find larger points and plates that make everyone else on the dig "ooh" with envy. You might see the signs and wonder if you can do it. Ask the mine guides or some of the more experienced collectors out with you for advice. Many (but not all) of them are excited by the find more than intent on stealing your site, and they can help you figure out how to not shatter your find and lament the damage you didn't mean to do.

YouTuber Daryl from [This Treasure Life](http://ThisTreasureLife) coached me through my first real extraction, which took close to four hours of effort. He said lots of people give up when they see what they have to do. Once you locate a generous looking pocket — points sticking out are one giveaway — you start by isolating the quartz from the host. That's a lot of chipping away of rock around the sides and under the target without getting too close to crack what you're after. Your goal is to extract the pretty stuff by loosening it. The mallet, screwdriver and crowbar were our tools of choice to get close.

Here's where the tent stake comes in. Another useful tool is a deer antler. These are things that are strong enough to clear more of the clay and rock as you get closer to the quartz. They can scrape and pry at the area without damaging the crystal. It's a slow and careful process where you're working to separate the points or plates from one another so you can take them home. It's trial and error, and some things will break. But with patience and practice, you get there. And it's addictive.

To protect your collection for the road home, pack your find in the clay and dirt you took it from. That way, they won't bang into each other while rolling unprotected in your bucket. You can clean them when at your final destination. And since you'll be hooked, you'll be ready to head back for another try.



YouTuber Daryl from [This Treasure Life](http://ThisTreasureLife) showed me the ropes on how to dig a pocket.



Big crystals from the pocket.



COVER STORY

ARKANSAS — Crater of Diamonds State Park



The Crater of Diamond State park is in Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

FIELD OF DREAMS

By Jeffrey Solochechek

Crater of Diamonds State Park, just south of Murfreesboro, Arkansas, is the only place in the world where the general public can dig for diamonds in their natural volcanic state.

That places it on the bucket list of rock-hounds and dreamers — especially after seeing the stories about the New York woman who found a 2.3-carat stone for her engagement ring, or the Minnesota man who thought he saw a candy wrapper that turned out to be a 3.81-carat stunner.

You, too, can try your luck for the \$15 entry fee, plus whatever you might pay if you decide to camp on the grounds. But it's not easy work.

All you really need to get started is a shovel, some buckets and sifting screens. You can rent the needed equipment from nearby providers — I recommend Lovejoy Diamond Screens — if you don't want to bring your own.

The effort comes in hauling buckets of dirt that you collect from spots on the wide open field, which is really rutted and not easy to walk across. Then comes the sifting and re-sifting of the material until the heaviest material where the diamonds might be is separated out. It can be a lengthy process with limited payoff. Sometimes it seems like you're better off just collecting the multicolored jaspers that are everywhere, and obvious.



Continued on next page

Club members got to see the Dash Diamond in person at the club.



Scott Freitas collecting dirt from the field



Jennifer Freitas at the wash station

Continued from previous page

Scott and Jennifer Freitas of Pasco County made their long-awaited trek to the Crater in July. They planned to stay three days in their RV before heading to their next destination.

After two hours of digging and sifting under the hot sun, though, they said they were ready to give up. It was just that uncomfortable out there.

But they still had some dirt in their buckets, so they decided to at least finish what they had started. They sure were glad they did.

Scott said he hadn't been sifting and shaking the materials so much as just shoving everything through the screens to see what remained. On one of his final efforts, he noticed one rock that stood out from all the others.

Clear and glistening among the gravel, their diamond came in at 3.36 carats. The park superintendent called it a stunner.

The couple named it the "Dash Diamond" after their dog. Scott said someone offered them tens of thousands of dollars for the gemstone. But they planned to have it cut for jewelry "to pass down to the kids" after showing the raw rock to the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club.

The Freitases said they weren't sure if they would go back to the Crater again. If they do, one tip they offered: Don't go in July.

Their find whetted their appetite for more rock hunting opportunities, perhaps next time in another part of the country.



The diamond has been registered at the Crater of Diamonds.



Scott and Jennifer at our club with the diamond.

METAL SHOP

Silversmithing 1.2 class: Split-shank ring with a stone

- 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 13 and 20, 2025

In the second class of the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course, the student will make a split-shank ring with a stone in it. This class consists of two four-hour classes.



Cost: \$141* Materials and the use of tools are included in the cost. (*Materials cost is subject to change based on market prices.)

Deposit of \$52 on Signup Genius required to save a seat.

Prerequisite: Must have completed Silver 1.1.

Students must bring own Optivisor. Closed-toe shoes required. No loose clothing; long hair must be tied back. Contact instructor Lisa Miller at meggymoo65@gmail.com or 772-631-1405 for more information about the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course.

Students must bring own Optivisor. Closed-toe shoes required.

**Click here
to sign up**



Silversmithing 1.3 class: Pendant

In the third and final class of the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course, the student will create a sterling silver pendant featuring a round or oval cabochon. This class consists of two four-hour classes.



- 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Oct. 4 and 11

Cost: \$144* Materials and the use of tools are included in the cost. (*Materials cost is subject to change based on market prices.)

Deposit of \$52 on Signup Genius required to save a seat.

Prerequisite: Must have completed Silver 1.1 and 1.2.

Students must bring own Optivisor. Closed-toe shoes required.

Contact instructor Lisa Miller at meggymoo65@gmail.com or 772-631-1405 for more information about the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course.

**Click here
to sign up**



Metal Open Shop Reservations

Members who completed the Beginning Silver course may use the Metal Shop during Open Shop hours. You must present your shop pass to the monitor when you sign in. If you do not have a card, ask the monitor or shop foreman for one. If you have previous smithing experience, but did not take the Beginning class, talk to the shop foreman for a Skills Check to get your shop pass. You must be a current member. Cost is \$6 per hour. **PayPal, credit card or exact change only.**

**Click here
to sign up**



METAL CLAY

Guest instructor Michael J. Marx returns

Start making your plans! Metal Clay artist and instructor Michael Marx is coming back to TBMSC for two classes in January 2026 to share with us some of his signature styles in metal clay. The classes are:

January 9: "Turtle With Stone" — a three-dimensional turtle using about 15 grams of silver clay with minimal tools, props and textures, with a cold-set stone. (You supply the stone. Cabs will also be for sale at class.) This class is suitable for new and intermediate clay artists.

Cost: \$345 total.

- \$134 deposit to reserve seat on Signup Genius.
- \$211 Instructor fee and materials (includes 15g of clay) due the day of class.

**Click here
to sign up**



January 10-11: "Awesome Owls" — a three-dimensional owl using 30-plus grams of silver clay with layered textures, coil work and multiple embellishments. This class is catered toward intermediate to advanced skill levels and require a full tool kit, textures and some props.

Cost: \$655 total.

- \$249 deposit to reserve a seat on Signup Genius
- \$406 Instructor fee and materials (includes 30g of clay) due the day of class

**Click here
to sign up**



Minimum of seven students required for each class. Up to 15 maximum. If additional clay is required, the cost will be additional.

Morning snacks and lunch are provided.

Please make sure your memberships are current. Non-members may purchase a weekend pass for \$30.

For more information, contact Lyra Solochek at lyrasolochek@gmail.com.



REMINDER

No Open Shop on class days in Lapidary or Metal Shop. Please check the schedule.

INSTRUCTOR LIST

Linda Collins

LCollins1953@gmail.com
Cold Connections, Wire Wrapping, Lapidary, Silver, Metal Shop foreman

Christy Gorrow

cgorrow@juno.com
Beading, Kumihimo, Viking Knit, Chaining and Intarsia

Jim Kammel

jmkammel@gmail.com
Faceting foreman and instructor

Mark Lauer

mdl3153@aol.com
Casting

Lisa Miller

meggymoo65@gmail.com
Silver

Lyra Solochek

lyrasolochek@gmail.com
Lapidary foreman and instructor, Metal Clay foreman and instructor

Jojo Torres

ceramics.johannatorres@gmail.com
Lapidary

Leah Welch

5324welch@gmail.com
Intarsia and Lapidary

LAPIDARY

Beginning Cabochon class

- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sept. 13-14 (Lyra)
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Oct. 18-19 (Lyra)
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Nov. 15-16 (Lyra)

This is a two-day workshop covering the basics of turning slabs of rocks into polished pieces. The cost of the class is \$230, which includes materials, instructor fees and shop time. A deposit of \$130 is required to save a spot, and the balance of \$100 should be paid to the instructor the day of the class.

**Click here
to sign up**



You must wear closed-toed shoes. No loose clothing and long hair must be tied back. Bring a waterproof apron, an Optivisor, a large towel and lunch.



Prerequisite: You must have completed Beginning Cabochon, plus have at least six months of active cabbing experience. Contact the instructor Peter Favaro at hawk_doc@hotmail.com, to confirm qualifications.

1-5 p.m. Sept. 27

Advanced Cabochon: Opal

This is an introductory class on opal cutting **for experienced cabbers**. You must have completed the Beginning Cabochon class (or equivalent), plus have at least six months of active cabbing under your belt. The following general topics will be covered in the class:

- recognizing the different types of opal fire
- selecting opal rough
- determining the shape of an opal
- selecting the top of the opal
- exposing the fire in a "patch and color" opal
- cutting without over cutting
- polishing the opal

Each student will work on the following: Boulder Opal, Mexican Fire Opal and Australian Opal

Cost: \$100 deposit to reserve a seat. \$50 instructor fee (cash or check) to the instructor the day of class.

**Click here
to sign up**



Lapidary Open Shop Reservations

Members who completed the Beginning Cabochon class may use equipment in the Lapidary Shop during Open Shop. You must present your shop pass to the monitor when you sign in. If you do not have a card, ask the monitor or shop foreman for one. If you have previous cabbing experience, but did not take the Beginning Cabochon class, talk to the shop foreman for a Skills Check to get your shop pass. You must be a current member to use club facilities. Cost is \$6 per hour. **PayPal, credit card or exact change only.** Please pay the shop monitor or club staff.

**Click here
to sign up**



LAPIDARY
AUGUST CABBING STUDENTS



Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith

Do bezels shrink?

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howelite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agate will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drug store will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Second, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder at the bottom joint of your bezel. Any problem with the fit in this area might break the stone as you burnish the bezel down onto it.



"24 Easy Metal Textures" - With No Rolling Mill Required

It details 24 different techniques for adding texture to your jewelry and metal work without the need for heavy equipment like a mill. The techniques make use of more tools and materials around the shop — like hammers, stamps, punches and tool bits for the Dremel or Foredom.

Each technique is explained in detail with:

- Description and pictures of the technique
- Procedures for creating the texture
- List of tools and supplies needed
- Options for modifying and personalizing

These methods are both useful and practical. I use them in my own work, and I teach them to others in classes and workshops. What's more is they're practical. None should put a dent in your budget.

Copies are available now at <https://amazon.com/dp/B0BPGPTBNH/>



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

Click to see all of Brad's books on amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

CALENDAR



[vecteezy.com](https://www.vecteezy.com)

GENERAL CLUB HOURS

Tuesday: 4-8 p.m.

Thursday: By appointment

Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

CLASSES, OPEN SHOP AND EVENTS

Saturday, September 13, 2025

8 a.m.-3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-1 p.m. SILVER 1.2, Day 1

Sunday, September 14, 2025

8 a.m.-3 p.m. FACETING, Day 2
9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. SILVER 1.2, Day 2

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, September 27, 2025

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
1 p.m. - 5 p.m. ADVANCED CABOCHON: OPALS

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, October 4, 2025

8 a.m.-3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, October 5, 2025

8 a.m.-3 p.m. FACETING, Day 2

Monday, October 6, 2025

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, October 11, 2025

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, October 18, 2025

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, October 19, 2025

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Election Submission Due

Saturday, October 25, 2025

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-10am Show Prep Volunteer Day

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Thursday, October 30, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW

Friday, October 31, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW
Show setup

Saturday, November 1, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW
10 a.m.-6 p.m. 66th annual Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Sunday, November 2, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW
10 a.m.-5 p.m. 66th annual Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Club hours
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, November 8, 2025

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Monday, November 10, 2025

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Board Meeting

TBMSC General Membership Minutes

September 6 , 2025

Meeting began at 11:39AM

42 persons present (including board members, members and presenters)

August 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes motion to approve made by club member, seconded by Lyra Solochek. Approved by all.

Show report by Greig Lundergan: 60 vendors. Requesting volunteers to help with front door, kids zone, club table (sales) and demonstrations. We will have volunteer slots available on SignUp Genius.

Membership report by Christy Gorrow: Website issues with PayPal and membership collaboration; many new members

Lapidary report by Lyra Solochek: Next week's class is full

Casting report by Mark Lauer: Almost ready to go. Finishing up first trial run-through. First class will be in October and will be posted on Signup Genius. Two slots per class (in beginning)

Table crafts report by Christy Gorrow: Wednesdays 1-4 p.m. and 6-9. p.m.

Silver report by Lyra Solochek: We will need a second silver instructor as Lisa Miller needs to take a break. Please contact Lyra Solochek if interested in teaching.

Faceting report by Lyra Solochek: Classes are going well. New classes for the next three months are posted

Metal Clay report by Lyra Solochek: We are still looking for qualified instructors to teach Metal Clay. Also, guest instructor Michael Marks will be here in January for two classes. It's a rare opportunity for club members.

Building updates by Ellen Sisco

- Front of clubhouse has been pressure washed and mulched—Looking great! Thank you, Carlo Lucin and Brenda Gregory, for all your hard work.
- AC system is on its way out, and will need to be replaced; we will have three estimates. General price range likely around \$15,000. Request for funds may be in future – will use funds from show first.
- Floors - Debating what to do to floors. The board is leaning toward Shark Coating. Asking for suggestions from members
- Concrete out back needs repair/replacement.
- ADA compliance will be addressed also.

Shop Passes – Lyra Solochek: Prepaid Open Shop Cards are now available with increments of \$30 for 5 hours, \$60 for 10 hours, \$120 for 20 plus 1 bonus hour. Purchase from Christy, Ellen or Lyra

Election Committee – voting this fall. Asking for election committee volunteers. 2 Board members and at least one club member. Leah Welch volunteers to represent club members.

Holiday Potluck will be Saturday, Dec. 6. Asking for donations for raffles. We will have a tailgate and a members meeting before festivities.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Ellen Sisco, president

Present: Ellen Sisco, Lyra Solochech, Cindy Britten, Kathy Reid, Brenda Gregory, Miles Bhavé, Christy Gorrow, Patti Kemple

By phone: Greig Lundergan, Linda Collins

August Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Lyra Solochech. Christy Gorrow seconded. Approved by all.

Treasurer Report: Linda Collins

- a. Large balance due to show vendor payments. Will stay in account for pending repairs to clubhouse
- b. Few expenses this month
- c. Linda will contact lawn company to discuss auto pay method.
- d. ADT monthly payment – no invoice – has payment been made?
- e. Upcoming insurance renewal – General Liability covers the show insurance. Discussion of need for “Student” Policy.

Show Update – Greig Lundergan

- 1) One 3 table booth left. (vendor did not get tax certificate)
- 2) Next payment due Oct. 15 (about \$24,000)
- 3) Robbins omission for show participation brought up for discussion. Opportunity to participate will be offered.
- 4) Darklyn (Wendy Davis) may not be able to participate; can we offer these tables to Robbins?
- 5) Greig Lundergan submitted his resignation as Dealer Chair and board member. New Show Committee: Lyra Solochech, Brenda Gregory, Linda Collins, Cindy Britten. Miles Bhavé will help with advertising.
- 6) Discussion on whether we’re offering free parking in November show.
- 7) Marketing for last show – March – April \$1,214. Advertising budget raised to \$2,000. Motion to approve increase: Cindy Britten. Seconded by Kathy Reid. Approved by all.
- 9) Nov. Show:
 - a) Movers on Thurs. Oct. 30. Need to verify table set up on Thursday.
 - b) Set up on Friday Oct. 31
 - c) Sunday, Nov 2, Show ends at 5 p.m. – movers will be there at 6:30 to take items back to clubhouse
 - d) Show committee will meet online to finalize info.
- 10) Fairgrounds notified of change of contact person

Building – Ellen Sisco

- 1) AC unit – Has to be replaced
 - a) Estimates are ranging from 15K to 20K
 - b) Will send estimates to board when available.
- 2) Flooring: Need to have presentations with samples of Shark Coating.
- 3) Discussion of Sequence of renovations:
 - a) Need to widen interior doors first – before the floor is done
 - b) Need Pods before cleaning out building.
 - c) Need a dumpster also.

Shop passes now available. Add info on tablets for purchasing with card. Dedicated receipt book for selling passes.

Continued on next page

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Department updates:

Lapidary: Big saw – motor is repaired and ready for installation. Peter Favaro will install on Saturday.

Casting - In operation; working out “bugs”; shed is very hot.

Silver — Lisa will be taking a break after October classes.

Faceting: Only one person signed up for weekday class in August. Weekend classes are scheduled through November

Table Crafts: Wednesday 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Can do a Saturday.

Metal Clay - Michael Marks in January

Memberships: Website membership was down. Now fixed

Landscaping: Almost finished.

Election: Board Election: Nomination Committee includes Patti Kepple, Mile Bhave and Leah Welch. Positions up for election are secretary, treasurer and three board positions

New business

Plans for December 6 Tailgate/meeting/holiday gathering.

- Sign up for potluck
- Need raffle donations

Ditch issue—need markers

Safety:

- Should be 2 persons in building at any time – liability reasons for now per previous insurance mandates.
- Need to check with new policy if requirement stands
- Explore Safety apps

8:58 PM Motion to adjourn made by Cindy Britten. Seconded. By Kathy Reid. Approved by all.

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ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

Ellen Sisco, President**

Lyra Solocheck, Vice President**

Linda Collins, Treasurer*

Cindy Britten, Secretary*

*Term expires in 2025

**Term expires in 2026

Board Members

Christy Gorrow*

Patti Kepple**

Brenda Gregory*

Milind Bhave**

Carlo Lucin**

Kathy Reid*

Rockhounding resources

Here are some websites that offer great information about rockhounding in Florida.

[Florida Rockhounding Location Guide & Map](#)

[How To Find Rocks rockhounding guide in Florida](#)

[Obtaining fossil permits in Florida](#)

[Gator Girl Rocks: America's Best Rockhounding Resource](#)



Additionally, the [Tampa Bay Fossil Club](#) hosts fossil-hunting field trips. Go to their website for more information.

2025 August Treasurer's Report

	CHECKING	SAVINGS
Beginning Balance:	\$ 39,639.02	\$ 47,127.27
Ending Balance:	\$ 50,315.57	\$ 47,128.47
Income/Expenses:	\$ (10,676.55)	\$ 1.20 Interest Income

Income: Paypal, Sign-up Genius, Weekly Club Income, Mmbrshp Renewal

Sign-up Genius	\$ 1,194.20
Deposits:	\$ 425.30
<i>(Sil:27; Lap:20; TC:110; Tlgt/Slb:275)</i>	
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 1,462.50
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 4,675.00
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 1,791.15
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 2,025.00
	\$ 11,573.15

Clubhouse Expenses - July 2025

\$ 896.60

Buildings/Grounds Expenses:

\$ 696.02

Insta Ink	8.59
T-Mobile Co. Phone	124.35
Teco	287.33
Company Utilities	26.75
Frank Gay Services (A/C Mntce)	249.00

Casting Expenses:

\$ -

Otto Frei

Lapidary Expenses:

\$ 11.61

Home Depot - Tampa	11.61
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Operational Expenses:

\$ 96.68

Amazon(AC cleaner)	39.56
Lyra Solocheek - Google Meet	9.99
Office Supplies	47.13

Silver Shop Expenses:

\$ 92.29

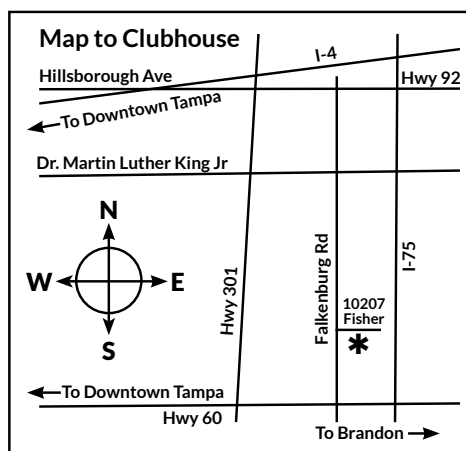
Rio Grande	92.29
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Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club, Inc.

Membership Application

*Mandatory fields

Adult 1 Name*		Email*	Birth month
Adult 2 Name*		Email*	Birth month
Child (under 18)			Birth month
Child (under 18)			Birth month
Child (under 18)			Birth month
Address			
City	State	ZIP	Phone*
Preferred form of contact*			Are you willing to receive your monthly newsletter by Email?
☐ Email ☐ Text ☐ Phone			☐ Yes ☐ No
I hereby apply for membership for myself and others listed above, and agree not to hold any claims against the club.*			Referred by:
Signature		Date	



Annual dues (January 1-December 31): \$50 individual, \$25 for each additional adult in the household, and \$5 for each child under 18.
Multi-year membership: \$180 individual for 4 years, \$90 per additional adult in household for 4 years
Lifetime membership: \$600 individual, \$300 per additional adult in household.

Make checks payable to "TBMSC" and mail with this application to 10207 Fisher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33619, or drop it off at the club house when you visit.

Clubhouse: 10207 Fisher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33619

Phone: (813) 684-2039

Website: www.tampabayrockclub.org

Regular membership meetings: 1st Saturday of Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.

Board meetings: 1st Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Monthly Newsletter: The Coral Geode

The Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club is a non-profit organization for the charitable and educational purposes of associating persons who are interested in natural science to work together as an organization in the gathering, displaying, and studying of rocks, shells, jewelry arts, and any kind of scientific objects of interest to the individual and the organization and to promote community interest in these subjects.

For Club Use

Cash or Check #	Amount	Receipt Done	Cards Done	Added to Mbr List	
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Revised 1/2025