



THE CORAL GEODE

April 2026



It's a wrap!

The Spring Show was a challenge, as it fell on a holiday weekend. But we still had success. Scenes from the show, Page 4

**FIELD TRIP
NEXT WEEK!**
Page 6

Mesolite
Okenite
Apophyllite
green blue

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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, Jojo Torres

Webmaster:

Miles Bhavé, Lyra Solochek

Field trip:

Carlo Lucin, chair

Program coordinator:

Lyra Solochek, Cindy Britten

Sunshine:

Brenda Gregory

Education/youth:

Cindy Britten

Landscape: Brenda Gregory, Carlo Lucin



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shuffling leadership roles

I'm sorry to report that Ellen Sisco has resigned as president due to health reasons. Thank you, Ellen, for a year and a half of leadership.

As vice president, I was promoted by the Board of Directors to head the club. Board member Christy Gorrow has volunteered to fill the role of vice president, and member and instructor Jojo Torres will fill Christy's board seat for the remainder of her term.



Lyra Solochek
President

Show business

Having the Spring Show on Easter weekend was a gamble. The Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center was fully booked, and we were not able to move the dates. We considered canceling, but decided that would hurt us in the long run. The show must go on.

On top of this challenge, we made a business decision to stop offering free parking. Many questioned this move. But the reality is, parking was never free. The club was covering the cost, and it was becoming unsustainable. To offset this pain-point for guests, we reduced the admission fee. If you look at it objectively, this can be an even better deal if you have more than two in a car.

Attendance exceeded our expectations. Friday being a school holiday might have helped, as we had just as many guests as on Saturday. I believe it also helped that there weren't too many other activities that weekend because of the holiday.

So, overall, we did well. The vendors did well also. Some reported they had "the best show ever!"

All that said, I hope to never again have a show on Easter weekend. The next Easter to land on the first weekend of April is in 2037. I've al-

Continued on next page

ABOUT OUR CLUB



Address:
10207 Fisher Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33619



Email:
info@tampabayrockclub.org



Phone:
(813) 684-2039



Website:
tampabayrockclub.org



Calendar

Invitation to Gemorama show

MAY 28: Show prep work day. 9 a.m. start at the clubhouse.

MAY 29-31: Show hours – 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

VENUE: Teco Expo Hall, 2301 W Oak Ave., Plant City, FL

Gemorama Show Productions has graciously offered the club a booth at the Gemorama Gem Show in May. We will need volunteers to move materials to the show and to staff the booth during the three-day show.

Click here to sign up



Volunteer sign-up sheet is available on Signup Genius. We won't need as many helpers compared to our show. But help would be appreciated.

On May 28, we will need help moving boxes to the venue, and setting up the table.

On May 29-31, we need volunteers to staff the club table to sell slabs/rocks, T-shirts, do demos and sign up new members.



Gemorama
Plant City, FL Gem and Mineral Show
10 am to 6 pm Friday and Saturday 10 am to 5 pm Sunday

May 29-31, 2026

Teco Expo Hall-Strawberry Festival Grounds
2301 W Oak Ave. Plant City, FL 33563

Join Us To Find:

- Fine Jewelry -Jewelry Mountings
- Loose Gemstones -Mineral Specimens
- Beads.....And More!!!




New members!

Jessica Naff
Russ & Cindy Hislip
Alesia Stevenson
Bryon Kohn
Ea Town
Soyoung Choi
Chris Barrera
Hilary Taylor-Kench
Bruce "Mikey" Wells
Albert DeJesus
Allyson Baker

Continued from previous page

ready asked the fairgrounds to pencil us in for different dates that year.

Renovations

We are moving forward with renovations to improve the clubhouse. We will be closing the club for the month of June to get our floors finished. This is no easy feat: We must prepare by moving almost EVERYTHING out of the building to allow work to be completed.

We will be scheduling work days before and after the project. We will need some muscles to move boxes and furniture out and back in. Stay tuned for more details.

In the Lapidary Shop, the shower stall has been removed, and the waterline was replumbed. Our new Lapidary team has done an outstanding job organizing the shop and improving equipment. More on this on Page 9.

Looking forward

We must get surplus items out of the clubhouse! We still have so much left over from previous estate donations. So we're having a fundraiser garage sale, open to the public. We'll do this in conjunction with the members' meeting on Saturday, June 6.

If you have items you would like to donate to sell at this event, please drop them off by the club between May 19 and June 5 during club hours. (But please bring large items closer to the sale date.) There's no restriction on what we can sell: books, DVDs, CDs, tools, outdoor equipment, some clothing in good shape. Please make sure everything is clean and sellable.

Proceeds will benefit the club. Leftover items will be donated to charity.

The Spring Show has sprung

Scenes from the 6th annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show on April 3-4. For more photos, go our Facebook post.



For more photos,
see our
[Facebook gallery.](#)

MEMBERS' SHOWCASE



Jim Kammel won Artist of the Month with this pendant.



Lyra Solochek: Silver metal clay pendant with cross-cut amethyst. The chain is also silver metal clay.

FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE!

Supporting the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club, a non-profit organization!

FOR SALE:
TOOLS, HOUSEWARE,
COLLECTIBLE PLATES,
CRAFT SUPPLIES, BOOKS,
CDs, DVDs, & MORE!

WHEN:
SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

TIME:
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

WHERE:
10207 FISHER AVE.,
TAMPA, FL 33619

Also Members' Tailgate (in the back)

(813) 684-2039 TampaRockClub TampaMineral
www.tampabayrockclub.org

FIELD TRIP

Let's go find some Tampa Bay corals, fossils



Sunday, April 26

Let's go hunting for some Tampa Bay corals! Club member and rockhound Matthew Stellan has volunteered to lead a field trip again. Meet at the club at 9 a.m. to join the group. We'll caravan to his favorite hunting spot not too far away. Because of the drought, the water levels are lower so it's prime time to go rockhounding, he says

There's no cost to participate, but please sign up so we can get a head count.

What to bring:

- Gloves
- Bag, bucket or backpack for rocks
- Some small hand tools or pry bar
- Drinks and snacks
- Newspaper or padding to wrap druzies

When we're done, we will drive back to the club for show-and-tell. We'll even give away a prize for the best find of the day. Matt will also share some techniques to clean your specimens.

**Click here
to sign up**



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.



FACETING

Practice your faceting skills in Open Shop

If you've completed the full faceting course, you are qualified to come to the club's Faceting Open Shop. These are available whenever there is a faceting class. Three machines are dedicated to class

Click here to sign up



students, and one machine is reserved for Open Shop. Make sure you reserve your spot, and do so early. To see available days and to reserve a station, go to "Faceting Open Shop" on [SignUpGenius](#).

Open shop is \$6 per hour. Payment by cash (exact change), Paypal or card.

Faceting requires practice. Keep honing your skills by cutting different materials and designs. Ask us about materials to practice with, or some new designs to try.



Beginning Faceting

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 18-19 (Full)
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. May 16-17 (Full)
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. July 11-12 (Full)
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. August 8-9
-

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.



Click here to sign up

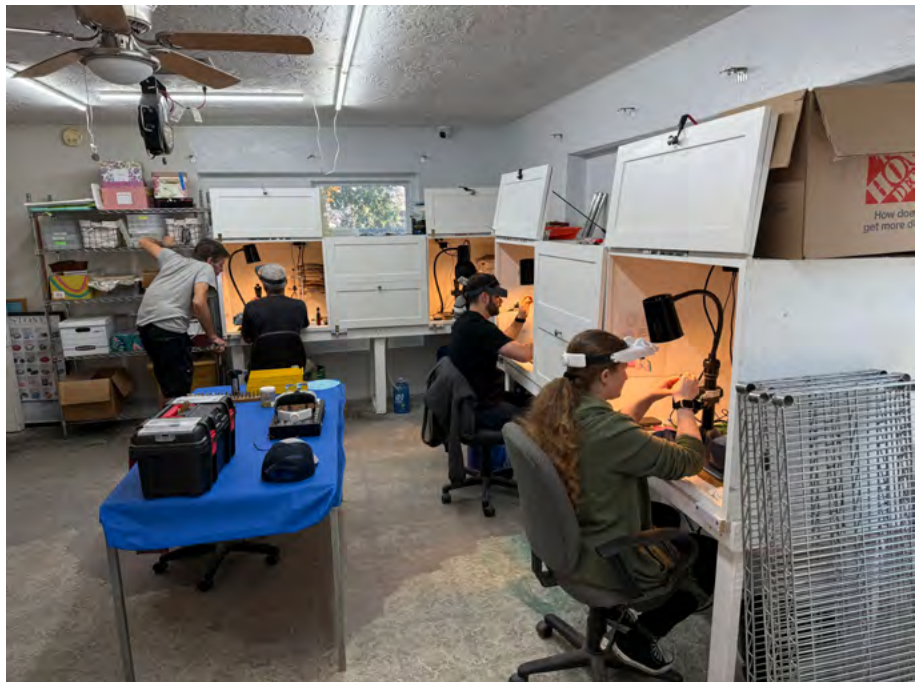




TABLE CRAFTS

Learn new skills with fellow table crafters

Hello Members!

Here's an invitation to join the Table Crafts groups. Table crafts consist of all forms of beading (stringing, peyote stitch, brick stitch, spiral stitch, netting stitching, loom work, and many more). In addition, there is Viking Knit, Chaining, and Kumihimo.

Right now, we have two regularly scheduled classes on Wednesdays. The afternoon group meets from noon to 3 p.m. and the evening group meets from 6 to 9 p.m.

Currently, the afternoon group is working on Kumihimo and Loom weaving, but you could start in at any time and on any technique.

A few of the evening group has been working on Viking Knit and are moving on to Chaining. Several others are beading: one is working on 3-D sea creatures and the other is working on both Kumihimo and Peyote Stitch. Again, you could join this group at any time on work on the technique of your choice.

There has been some interest in starting a Kumihimo class and days and times are being arranged. Several people work, so it's a possibility that this will be an evening or weekend class. More information as plans are firmed up.

Contact Christy Gorrow at christygorrow@gmail.com if you would be interested in any of the possibilities.

– Christy Gorrow



INSTRUCTOR LIST

Linda Collins

LCollins1953@gmail.com

Instructor for Cold Connections, Wire Wrapping, Lapidary, Silver, Metal Shop foreman

Christy Gorrow

christygorrow@gmail.com

Instructor for Beading, Kumihimo, Viking Knit, Chaining and Intarsia

Jim Kammel

jmkammel@gmail.com

Faceting foreman and instructor

Mark Lauer

mdl3153@aol.com

Casting instructor

Lisa Miller

meggymoo65@gmail.com

Silver instructor

Lyra Solochek

lyrasolochek@gmail.com

Metal Clay foreman and instructor, Lapidary instructor

Jojo Torres

ceramics.johannatorres@gmail.com

Lapidary

Leah Welch

rockabundance74@gmail.com

Intarsia and Lapidary instructor and Lapidary foreman

Club gem shows in Florida

April 18-19—ORLANDO: Show and sale; Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.; Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Adults \$6 per day, Kids \$3 per day, Kids in Scout uniform Free; Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc., a non-profit 501(C) 3, educational organization, is sponsoring a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show. Vendors offering gemstones, crystals, minerals, beads, hand-crafted jewelry. Live demonstrations, silent auction, door prizes & family activities. <https://cfmgs.org>

May 29-31—PLANT CITY: Show; Gemorama Show Productions; Teco Expo Hall - Florida Strawberry Festival Grounds, 2301 W Oak Ave; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5 Admission at the door. Join us for an unforgettable weekend of sparkle, discovery and fun. Two incredible door prizes to choose from.

June 19-21—FT. WALTON BEACH: Annual show; PGMS Panhandle Gem and Mineral Shows; Fort Walton Beach NW Florida Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; \$5 entry good all weekend, under 12 free; Grand Door Prize, free identification. www.panhandlegemandmineralshows.com.

LAPIDARY



Lots of improvements in the shop

We've seen lots of improvements in the Lapidary Shop this past month. Foreman Leah Welch and Assistant Foreman Cindy Britten have been hard at work with equipment maintenance and repairs.

The water line has been upgraded to include warm water for cold days. Please keep this turned off during the summer to save on electricity. Also, we're exploring a better water control system for individual cabbing machines. Stay tuned.

Coming soon on the back table are a new setup for polishing wheels, a cerium polishing wheel, a faceting machine we're converting to a flat lap, and refreshed trim saws.

We're training some new monitors, but we still need more. If you're interested in becoming a monitor, please reach out to Leah.

Because of club renovations, the shop will be closed for June. Weekday classes return in July, and weekend dates are pending instructor availability.

New: We are implementing a 2-student minimum to hold a class.



Leah Welch

Introducing the new Lapidary foreman, assistant foreman

Leah Welch's passion for rocks began at age four when she discovered a piece of volcanic ash rock on a family trip, which she still treasures. She joined the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club in 2023, and started teaching beginner cabochon classes in 2025. She also offers beginner intarsia.

Leah took over as interim shop foreman in January and has now accepted the permanent role, working hard with Assistant Foreman Cindy Britten to organize and update the shop.

Leah lives in Palm Harbor with her boyfriend, brother, and their dog Lily. She is passionate about all things in nature and is also an active member of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club and the Tampa Leather Guild.



Cindy Britten

LAPIDARY

We need more shop monitors

The Lapidary department is seeking some volunteers to join the monitor rotation for Tuesdays and Saturdays. Monitors ensure shop equipment are used properly and safely. Without monitors, we cannot have Open Shop. Available rotations are on Tuesdays from 4-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

To qualify to be a monitor, you must have:

- successfully completed the Beginning Cabochon class for Lapidary, or clearance from the shop foreman.
- knowledge of how to operate machinery in the shop and the ability to troubleshoot problems.
- at least 6 months to 1 year experience actively cabbing.

Monitors may work on their projects when they're on duty, but they cannot use any noise cancellation headphones, as listening to how the machines are being used is very important.

If you're interested in taking a shift or two per month, please contact foreperson Leah Welch at rockabundance74@gmail.com



Sign up required in advance for Lapidary Open Shop

IMPORTANT: You must sign up in advance to reserve a seat for Open Shop so we can arrange a monitor to be present. If no one is signed up, the session will be canceled. Cabbers must arrive within the shop hours. We will not take anyone during the last hour.

[Click here to sign up](#)

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 staff on how to get one. If you have previous cabbing experience, but did not take the Beginning Cabochon class, talk to the shop foreman, Leah Welch, for a Skills Check to get your shop pass. She may be reached at rockabundance74@gmail.com.

You must be a current member to use club facilities. Cost is \$6 per hour. PayPal, credit card, Pre-paid Shop Card or exact change only. Please pay the shop monitor or club staff before you leave.

Beginning Cabochon class

- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. May 9-10
- 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. July 7, 8, 14, 15
- 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. August 4, 5, 11, 12

This workshop covers 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/magnifier, a large towel and lunch.

NOTE: Class must meet two-student minimum.

LAPIDARY



March Beginners
Cabochon class



CASTING

Intro to wax carving and silver centrifuge casting



**April 25-26 (Full)
May 30-31**

This two-day class begins on the morning of Day 1 with an introduction to wax carving, where you'll create a freeform ring. In the afternoon, you'll learn how to set up a plaster of Paris mold. This mold will be placed in the kiln at the end of the day for burnout overnight.

On Day 2, you'll cast your ring in sterling silver and explore various methods to finish and polish your piece. Previous experience in

silver classes is strongly recommended.

Click here to sign up



The fee for the class is \$250, which includes all materials,

instructor fee, and shop time. A deposit of \$150 is required to reserve your spot, with the remaining \$100 payable to the instructor on the day of the class.

For more information, contact instructor Mark Lauer at mdl3153@aol.com.

METAL CLAY

Metal clay beyond silver

Many artists are gravitating toward base metal clay – copper and bronze – because of the skyrocketing price of silver. But unlike silver, base metal clay requires a more complicated firing schedule, thus making it more suitable for those with some experience with this medium.

I recently traveled to North Carolina to become certified in base metal clay from Clay Revolution. The class covered the use of five different types of clay, their properties and nuances. I hope to start incorporating what I learned there in classes starting in July. Stay tuned for more details.

– Lyra Solochek



Lyra with Clay Revolution owner and instructor Carrie Story.



The second stage requires firing pieces in activated coconut carbon.

April 25

Intro to Metal Clay

9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 25

This is a great class for those who want to try out metal clay. This class will introduce you to the proper basic techniques of rolling, texturing, shaping and cutting metal clay. You will learn how to care for and rehydrate the clay, dry and refine shapes, fire, polish and patina your pieces. You will even learn how to torch fire!

Click here to sign up



You will make a pendant with a foldover bail and embellishments, and a pair of earrings. This is an intensive one-day workshop. Clay and all findings

needed for the projects are included in the price of the class.

Tools are available to borrow from the club. Please bring a lunch.

- Materials: 15 grams fine silver metal clay, jump rings, ear wires, leather cord,
- Cost: \$200 total (Instructor and Materials Fee, \$160; TBMSC Club Fee: \$40)

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

METAL SHOP

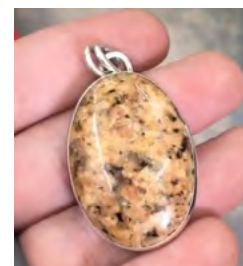
March silver class



Silversmithing 1.3 class: Pendant

[Click here to sign up](#)

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. March 14 and March 21 (Full)
- 9 a.m.-1 p.m. May 2 and 9

Cost: \$155* 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-toed shoes required.

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

Metal Open Shop Reservations

[Click here to sign up](#)



Members who completed the Beginning Silver course may use the Metal Shop during Open Shop hours. Open Shop hours are:

- Noon-6 p.m. Tuesdays
- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays
- By appointment with shop foreman Linda Collins. Reach her by text at 508-944-3399.

You must present your shop pass to the monitor when you sign in. If you do not have a pass, ask the monitor or shop foreman about getting 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. Or purchase a pre-paid shop card.

Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith



Bezel problems

Have you ever had problems pushing the bezel down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in the metal. In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

"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/BOBPGPTBNH/>



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

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



CALENDAR

GENERAL CLUB HOURS

Tuesday: 4-8 p.m.

Thursday: By appointment

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



vecteezy.com

CLASSES, OPEN SHOP AND EVENTS

Saturday, April 18, 2026

8 a.m.-3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
8 a.m.-3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. SILVER 1.2, Day 2

Sunday, April 19, 2026

8 a.m.-3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 2
8 a.m.-3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m.-8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

12 p.m.-3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m.-9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, April 25, 2026

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 1
9 a.m.-3 p.m. INTRO TO METAL CLAY
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Sunday, April 26, 2026

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 2
9 a.m.-12 p.m. FIELD TRIP

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m.-8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

12 p.m.-3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m.-9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, May 2, 2026

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m.-1 p.m. SILVER 1.3, Part 1

Monday, May 4, 2026

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m.-8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

12 p.m.-3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m.-9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, May 9, 2026

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m.-1 p.m. SILVER 1.3, Day 2

Sunday, May 10, 2026

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

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m.-8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

12 p.m.-3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m.-9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, May 16, 2026

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m.-8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

12 p.m.-3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m.-9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, May 23, 2026

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Gemorama Show Prep
9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m.-8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

12 p.m.-3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m.-9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Thursday, May 28, 2026

10 a.m. Gemorama setup

Friday, May 29, 2026

10 a.m.-6 p.m. GEMORAMA SHOW

Saturday, May 30, 2026

Club closed except for casting
10 a.m.-6 p.m. GEMORAMA SHOW
9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 1

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Club closed except for casting
10 a.m.-5 p.m. GEMORAMA SHOW
9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 2

Monday, June 1, 2026

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

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

12 p.m.-6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m.-8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

12 p.m.-3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m.-9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, June 6, 2026

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Fundraiser garage sale
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Members' tailgate
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Members' meeting

Sunday June 7, 2026-Sunday June 28, 2026

Club closed the month of June for renovations

Saturday, June 13, 2026

WORK DAY TO CLEAR BUILDING

Sunday June 14, 2026

WORK DAY TO CLEAR BUILDING

TBMSC Emergency Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2026

Present: Lyra Solochek, Christy Gorrow
Via Zoom: Cindy Britten, Miles Bhave, Carlo Lucin, Kathy Reid
Call to Order: @ 8 p.m. by Lyra Solochek

Emergency meeting to discuss leadership succession after Ellen Sisco's resignation on April 7, 2026.
Board votes to move vice president Lyra Solochek to president. Christy Gorrow volunteered to be the new Vice President, which the board also approved.

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

Present: Lyra Solochek, Cindy Britten, Linda Collins, Christy Gorrow, Brenda Gregory
Via Phone: Miles Bhave, Carlo Lucin, Kathy Reid, Patti Kepple, JoJo Torres
Call to Order: @ 6:30 by Lyra Solochek

Approval of March board meeting minutes: Board approved unanimously.

Executive Session: Discussion of board vacancy and membership matters.
Return to Open Session

Executive Board Changes: Ellen Sisco resigned presidency due to health reasons. Lyra Solochek assumed the role of president. Christy Gorrow assumed the role of Vice President. JoJo Torres accepted board seat vacated by Christy Gorrow.

Vote on appointment of JoJo Torres to the Board of Directors. Approved unanimously

Removal of Robert Gene Campbell from TBMSC membership: Approved unanimously. Membership and club access permanently revoked by the Executive Board action.

Treasurer's Report, presented by Linda Collins

- The Spring Show produced positive results with no outstanding expenses.
- Treasurer's Report approved unanimously.

Spring Show Report, presented by Lyra Solochek

- Attendance exceeded expectations.
- Revenue increased slightly due to elimination of club-paid parking.
- Total of 54 vendors participated.
- Accessibility concerns remain regarding distance to ADA parking.
- Advertising review showed stronger engagement via social media than billboards. Increased Facebook advertising recommended; JoJo Torres to explore Facebook and Instagram options.

OLD BUSINESS

Construction Updates

- Problems with work done by contractor: Interior and exterior timed lighting currently on shared breakers due to contractor error; separation required.

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- Lapidary water system exceeded budget and remains below specification.
- Contractor reliability issues noted.
- Flooring project planned for June, with clubhouse closure beginning June 8.
- Second storage container recommended for construction period.

Rock Packing: Only a small number of specimens remain to be boxed.

Estate Pickup: Scheduled for April 19, 2026, with multiple members assisting.

Department Reports:

- Lapidary: Proposed budget increase to \$3,000 due to increase in maintenance costs. Lockable storage cabinet needed to store valuables. Motion to increase annual budget unanimously approved.
- Silver: Silver Level 3 class in session. New small drill press needed. Open shop usage remains strong.
- Table Crafts: Potential Kumihimo classes (evenings/weekends). Advanced wire-wrapping classes planned
- Casting: Portable AC unit needed for hot summer months (approx. \$300-\$350). Motion to purchase unanimously approved.
- Faceting: Need for digital caliper noted.
- Metal Clay: Lyra Solochek achieved base metal clay certification. Class and firing schedules forthcoming.
- Building Maintenance: Carlo Lucin volunteered to manage filter changes. Hall light bulb replacement needed. Common-area ceiling fan requires re-installation by contractor.
- Grounds: Increased mowing frequency required. Dead foliage to be trimmed.
- Safety: Fire extinguishers require reinstallation and recertification. Building fire inspection to be scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

- Security: Exterior doors re-keyed. Combination gate lock installed. Individual access codes assigned. Formal key/access list to be created.
- Gem-O-Rama (May 29-31, 2026): Robbins Jewelry donated four tables. Volunteers needed. Club show prep workday scheduled for May 23.
- Communications: New T-Mobile internet service activated with new router, Wi-Fi credentials posted. Club phone needs to be replaced.
- Governance: SunBiz records updated to reflect board changes. Discussion held regarding retaining nonprofit legal counsel.
- Fundraising: Garage Sale to coincide with June 6 Quarterly Members Meeting. Donations accepted during club hours, May 19 - June 5 during club hours. Setup/pricing the week before the sale. Volunteers requested.
- Long-Term Goals: Rewrite Standard Operating Procedures (last updated 1999). Bylaws needs refining. Compile comprehensive account/password inventory.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: May 4, 2026

ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

Lyra Solochek, President**
 Christy Gorrow, Vice President**
 Linda Collins, Treasurer*
 Cindy Britten, Secretary*

Board Members

Brenda Gregory* Patti Kepple**
 Carlo Lucin** Milind Bhavé**
 Kathy Reid* Jojo Torres*

*Term expires in 2027
 **Term expires in 2026

Prepaid Shop Card still available

Buy one — or more — of the Prepaid Shop Cards (PSC) and use them as you visit the club for Open Shop. 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.

If you're interested, you can purchase them from club officers.

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.



Help us make our mineral displays shine!

Brenda Gregory and Cindy Britten are currently inventorying our rock/mineral collection and giving our display cabinets a makeover. This is all part of preparations to clear the clubhouse to install a new floor later this year.

Thank you to all of you that have brought in boxes for the storage of the rocks/minerals. We are still looking for:

Sturdy Boxes: Ideally 14x14x10 or smaller. Due to the mass of some of the specimens, large boxes can't be used.

Display Stands: Think creative: napkin rings, candle bases, or plant holders that we can upcycle! Actual display stands are welcome too!

Want to join the fun?

If you have any items to donate or want to spend a Tuesday evening (6–9 p.m.) helping us out, we'd love to see you there! Any help or donations are so appreciated!

Thanks for being such a supportive community. We can't wait to see the finished display, and we'd love for you to be a part of it!



2026 March Treasurer's Report

	CHECKING	SAVINGS
Beginning Balance:	\$ 58,363.27	\$ 47,135.47
Ending Balance:	\$ 45,756.96	\$ 47,137.39
Income/Expenses:	<u>\$ 12,606.31</u>	<u>\$ 1.92</u>

Income: Paypal, Sign-up Genius, Weekly Club Income, Mmbrshp Rene		0
Credit Adjustments	15.58	
Sign-up Genius	\$ 1,022.10	
Stripe	\$ 7,195.19	
Deposit	\$ 13,372.57	
	<u>\$ 21,605.44</u>	

Clubhouse Expenses - March 2026 **\$ 34,211.75**

Buildings/Grounds Expenses:		<u>\$ 4,946.73</u>
T-Mobile Co. Phone		
Teco-Feb/Mar		\$ 369.05
Company Utilities		\$ 35.48
Daniel Burd - Lawn Care(2mos)		\$ 800.00
ADT Security		\$ 222.49
Reentel Com		\$ 88.00
USA Kitchen & Bath - (Lapidary)		\$ 2,000.00
Home Depot - Racks		\$ 752.45
United Rentals		\$ 679.26
Operational Expenses:		<u>\$ 2,002.19</u>
Auto Owners Insurance		-
Manatee Insurance		-
Philadelphia Indemnity-Accident		-
Lyra Solochek - Geode		\$ 300.00
Cnty Hillsboro - Sunbiz		\$ 1,316.19
Go-Daddy		\$ 92.97
OBHAUS - Plant City - Miles		\$ 120.00
Sign Up Genius (class refund)		\$ 130.00
Insta Ink		\$ 18.26
Brenda Gregory - Paint		\$ 24.77

2026 March Treasurer's Report (cont'd from page 1)

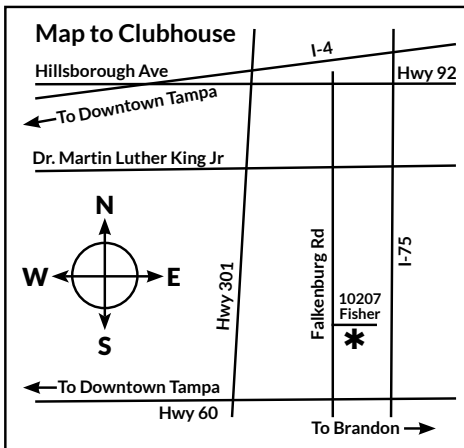
Trade Show Expenses:	\$ 22,495.85
FL State Frgrnds	\$ 19,898.17
Amazon Mktplc	\$ 202.41
College Hunks	\$ 99.96
Blip Billboards	\$ 1,075.85
Facebook	\$ 557.27
Wal-Mart	\$ 24.12
Best Buy - Tablets	\$ 343.98
Winn-Dixie	\$ 26.85
Staples	\$ 267.24
Silver Shop Expenses:	\$ 4,027.38
Amazon Mktple - Bracelet Dies	\$ 117.74
Chuck Bruce	3909.64
Metal Clay Expenses:	\$ 58.30
Lyra Solocheck - Met. Clay Supplies	58.30
Casting Expenses:	\$ -
Mark Lauer	
Lapidary Expenses:	\$ 681.30
Hi-Tech Diamond	81.93
Jedwards Int'l	247.78
Lapidary Sys	27.44
Cab King	260.00
Leah Welch - Hazmat clothing	64.15
Faceting Expenses:	\$ -
Rio Grande	
Table Crafts (Wire Wrapping) Expenses:	\$ -
Rio Grande	
Table Crafts (Beading) Expenses:	\$ -
Rio Grande	

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?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	