



THE CORAL GEODE

August 2026



Sparkling standout

Club member Brian Floyd won a Prettiest Stone Contest at the USFG Faceting Symposium in Franklin, North Carolina. Page 5

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ABOUT OUR CLUB



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Calendar

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TBMSC COMMITTEES

The Coral Geode newsletter:

Lyra Solochek, editor/designer

Gem Show:

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

Membership:

Christy Gorrow, director

Social media

and advertising:

Lyra Solochek, Miles Bhave, Brenda Gregory, Jojo Torres

Webmaster:

Miles Bhave, 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

Save the date: Come celebrate our Grand Re-opening

Dear members,
Can you believe it's August already? It's been a busy summer, with lots of changes happening at the club. We have accomplished quite a bit.

Grand Re-Opening

We're back after a month off for renovations, although please excuse the mess — we still have some work to do! Our goal is to have everything in tip-top shape for our Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, September 12.

We'll celebrate with our quarterly Members Meeting and Tailgate. The club will be open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., with the meeting at 11:30 a.m. We'll have demonstrations, mini-classes, door prizes and refreshments.

Come check out the improvements, see what's new, and enjoy some camaraderie with your fellow members.



Lyra Solochek
President

Renovation Update & Volunteers Needed

Our leaders and volunteers have been working hard, but there's still plenty to do before the Grand Re-Opening. We need help with moving boxes, carpentry, painting, cleaning, and general organizing.

Our work days are August 15 and August 22.

Here's a little incentive: Volunteer for one day and receive \$20 off next year's membership. Volunteer for both days and next year's membership is FREE! You must sign up through [SignUpGenius](#) to qualify. **See Page 4 for details.**

Looking Ahead to the Fall Show

Our Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show will be held November 7-8, and more than half the venue is already reserved.

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

Our semi-annual shows are the club's primary fundraisers, and we need volunteers to help make them a success. Please mark your calendars:

Setup: Friday, November 6, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Move-out: Sunday, 4–7 p.m. approximately

A volunteer sign-up will be available in October. Volunteers receive free parking and admission, so please consider lending a hand.

Leadership Elections

It's almost time for our annual elections. This year, we'll elect a President, Vice President, and three Board members.

If you're interested in becoming more involved and helping shape the future of the club, please contact Linda Collins or Brenda Gregory of the Elections Committee. Nominations will be accepted through September.

So far, candidates have stepped forward for all of the positions except for vice president. This role is a vital one in the leadership, and the person in it often moves into the president spot in future years. If you're interested in learning more about the job and its responsibilities, please email me.

Reminders: Safety & Class Cancellations

The club is a working shop, and safety comes first. Please remember:

- Closed-toe shoes are required.
- Wear appropriate clothing; flammable or loose/flowing garments are prohibited when working with torches or machinery.
- Long hair must be tied back when using shop equipment.
- Follow all posted safety rules and applicable safety codes.
- Use appropriate PPE when required.

Also, please remember our class cancellation policy. We understand that schedules change, but last-minute cancellations leave instructors with an empty seat and no pay. Please give us at least 10 business days' notice when canceling a class so we have a chance to fill the spot.

New silver and jewelry classes

We are introducing a new jewelry concept class, taught by accomplished jewelry artist and member Patt Fosnaught. Her class will encourage students to develop and expand ideas for designing your own jewelry. More details on Page 7.

Metal Shop foreman Linda Collins, along with instructors Kathy Reid and Cindy Britten, are working on restructuring the Fundamentals of Silver series. They will have more information and signups in the next newsletter. More details on Page 7.

Special thanks

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the renovations and continues to support the club. We've accomplished a lot this summer, and it wouldn't have been possible without our board and club members.

Please remember that we are a volunteer-based organization, and the club's success depends on the participation and support of our membership.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Grand Re-Opening!



Volunteers needed for work days in August

The new floors are in and most of the rooms are painted. Now it's time to move back in. We need some volunteers who can muscle some heavy boxes back into the building, do some minor carpentry, paint, organize and clean before our Grand Re-Opening event in September.

Click here to sign up

We will hold work days on August 15 and 22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. We will have a task list of things we need accomplished. We hope to check them all off.

Here's a little incentive: Those who sign up on Signup Genius and work one day will receive \$20 off next year's membership. Sign up and work both days and next year's membership is FREE! You must sign up through SignupGenius to qualify. Limited to 6 spots.





You're Invited!

TAMPA BAY MINERAL & SCIENCE CLUB

GRAND Re-Opening!

CELEBRATE THE RE-OPENING OF OUR CLUBHOUSE!





**SATURDAY
SEPT. 12**
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.



TAILGATE
9 – 11:30 A.M.



MEMBERS MEETING
11:30 A.M.



DEMONSTRATIONS
Watch skills in action and learn something new!



MINI CLASSES
Try something new in a fun, hands-on way!



REFRESHMENTS SERVED
Enjoy snacks, drinks and good company!



NEW SPACES
Come see all the great updates we've made!



FEATURING A KNIFE/TOOL SHARPENING VENDOR

★

Bring your knives and tools and get them professionally sharpened on site!

★ **NEW LOOK.** *Same Passion.* **STRONGER TOGETHER.** *All Members Welcome!* ★



NEW SPACES. NEW OPPORTUNITIES. SAME GREAT COMMUNITY.



FACETING SYMPOSIUM

Invaluable experience in NC

Three club members — Lyra Solochek, Brian Floyd and Cameron Davidson — traveled to North Carolina in July to attend the annual United States Faceting Guild's Faceting Symposium. They participated in Meetpoint Meetup, where participants gather to facet the same design with the same material on their own machines, sharing tips and knowledge with each other along the way during the two-day event.

Following the meetup, the symposium offered seminars and talks on various aspects of faceting, including Reverse Engineering a Faceting Cut/Diagram, Preforming with a trim saw, Polishing tips, Faceted Gems from a Jeweler's Perspective and more. Also demos on dopping, trim saw shaping, fantasy cutting, and stone selection.

One of the highlights is the Prettiest Stone competition where faceters may enter stones in four categories: Natural Stone, Synthetic Stone, Door Knob (over 25 carats) and Fantasy. Brian won the Fantasy Division for his stone, featured on the cover. Congratulations, Brian!



Brian Floyd with USFG President Doug Augsperger and Treasurer Dan Lynch.



Prettiest Stone contest entries.

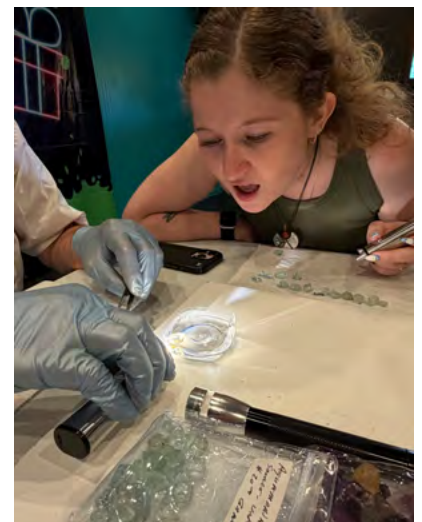


Cameron Davidson and Brian Floyd at the Meetpoint Meetup.



Cody Rosenberg, glass artist from Atlanta, facets a large glass piece at the meetup.

Renowned faceter Roger Dery shared his knowledge on how to select faceting rough.



Cameron learns how to select good rough for cutting.

FACETING

Save the dates

USFG Meetpoint Meetup coming to club!

Experienced faceters, take note. We are working with the United States Faceting Guild to host our own Meetpoint Meetup at the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club. The event will take place Saturday-Sunday, January 9-10, 2027, with a setup/arrival on Friday, January 8.

You must have your own faceting machine, and must have cut 20-30 stones on your own. You also must know how to use your machine, as we will not have time to troubleshoot during the sessions.

The event itself is free, but attendees must arrange their own transportation and accommodations. The event is open to any USFG member, and club membership is not required.

This is the first time the USFG is having a Meetpoint Meetup in Florida, so this is exciting news. We expect this event will put the TBMSC on the map as a faceting destination.

More details to come this fall.

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 with an appointment on Saturdays, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.. Contact tampamineral@gmail.com to make a reservation.

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.

Faceting

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. September 5-6
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. October 3-4

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



METAL SHOP

We're revamping our silver curriculum

Just a quick update for our Silver Shop! As you know, we installed new floors throughout the club. They look terrific!!!! We decided to paint the walls to give the club a brighter appearance. The club gives a very welcoming feeling when you come through the doors. If you get a chance stop by and look at all the hard work done to upgrade the club.



Our Silver Shop needed some TLC as well! We decided to update the soldering bench. We are adding an additional torch station, giving us a total of 4 stations with plenty of storage under each. The stations are equipped with all the necessary supplies to complete any soldering project.

The 6 workbenches have been updated with additional supplies. Shortly, we will be introducing:

- Make-N-Take classes — One is being introduced in September (Check the classes in the this newsletter, Page 9)
- An Introductory Class for Equipment Usage in the Silver Shop is in the process and should be shared very soon! We will have additional information in the September Geode.
- New curriculum and formats for the silver classes will be announced soon.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Open House and Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2026!

— Linda Collins, Metal Shop Foreman

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:

- 1-6 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.

JEWELRY

NEW CLASS

Design explorations: Searching for good design

This series of sessions consists of exercises to stimulate ideas for designing your own artwork in any medium, pushing boundaries to expand creative limits and adding to your growth as an artist. Exercises include:

Click here to sign up



- Elements and principles composition collage
- Picture this exercise and imagination drawings
- Process of abstraction sketches
- Cut paper pattern exercises

Participants should bring a mixed media 11 x 14" sketchbook and a package of assorted color construction paper. All other materials and equipment are provided.

Class fee which includes club fee is \$100 for four sessions: Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., September 8 through 29.

Instructor: Patt Fosnaught

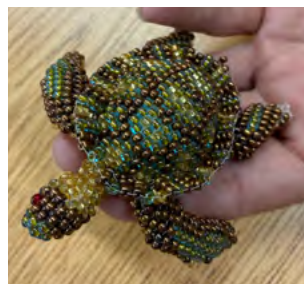


TABLE CRAFTS

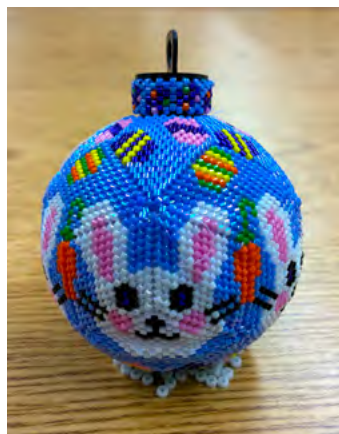
Table craft sessions continue

We're continuing to meet on Wednesdays. Afternoon session is from noon to 3 p.m. and evening session is from 5:30 or 6 p.m. for 3 hours. We have people doing loom weaving, beading, Kumihimo, Viking knit, and chaining right now. Come join the fun. Crafters of all skill levels welcome. Here are some examples of what members have been making.

—Christy Gorrow, christygorrow@gmail.com



Three-dimensional Peyote stitch by Lyda Brown



Peyote stitch Easter Bunny ornament by Christy Gorrow



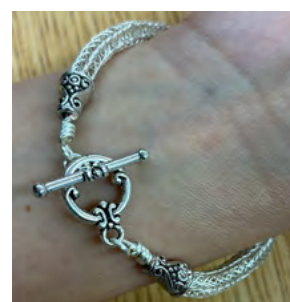
Tubular Peyote stitch necklace by Linda Stephens



Flat odd-count Peyote stitch bracelet by Colleen Ross



Viking Knit class (July-August)



WIRE WRAPPING



August 22, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Intermediate Wire Wrapping

\$73 (shop fee \$18, class fee \$55)

If you have completed your Introduction to Wire Wrapping class and are ready for more, here's your opportunity to take your next steps. In this 3-hour class you step up to Cabochon Wrapping. In this class you will learn how to create a design to wrap any size cabochon. You will be selecting an oval cabochon for the first project. The second project in the class will be a square stone. Each stone will be wrapped with a different style of bale and completed with a simple pre-made chain/necklace.

All materials will be included in the class fee. Tools available on loan if needed. Bring your own magnifiers (if needed). Go to Sign Up Genius to reserve a seat by placing a deposit for the shop fees and balance paid to Instructor on class day.

Date: 8/22/2026 (11:30am to 2:30pm)

**Click here
to sign up**



September 12, 1-4 p.m.

Make-And-Take: Sterling Silver Bangle Bracelet

Shop \$20 **plus class fee** (depends on amount of silver used)

In this class you will be creating your Bangle Bracelet with Sterling Silver pattern wire for the core of the bangle then surrounding it with twisted wire, round wire and half round wire. Finishing it off with a hinged clasp, creating a sophisticated type of bracelet.

All materials will be included in the class fee. Tools available on loan if needed. Bring your own magnifiers. Go to SignUp Genius to reserve a seat by placing a deposit for the shop fees and balance paid to the instructor on class day.

DATE: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, September 12

**Click here
to sign up**



September 19, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Beginner's Wire Weaving

\$89 (shop \$24, class \$65)

If you have completed your Intermediate Wire Wrapping Class and are ready for the next challenge, this is for you! Challenge yourself with Advanced Wire Wrapping (some call it Wire Weaving). In this class you will be working with several wires creating a weave or wrapping design shapes for the cabochon you have selected. The bale will be created with the continuous weave brought over the back to create and capture the entire cabochon.

All materials will be included in the class fee. Tools available on loan if needed. Bring your own magnifiers. Closed toed shoes are required. Go to Sign Up Genius, reserve a seat by placing a deposit for the shop fees. Balance paid to Instructor on class day.

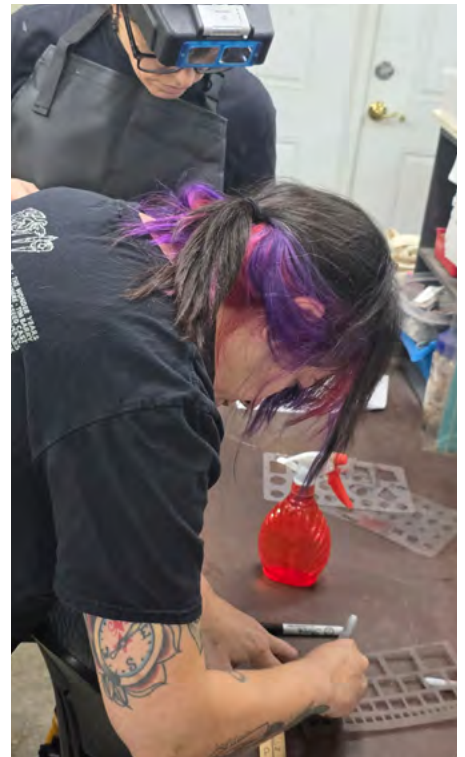
DATE: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, September 19

**Click here
to sign up**



LAPIDARY

Beginning Cabochon class from July



LAPIDARY



Sign up required in advance for Lapidary Open Shop

IMPORTANT: You must sign up in advance (at least 24 hours) 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**

Beginning Cabochon class

- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. August 22-23
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. September 19-20
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. October 10-11

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.

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 Lyra Solochek or Jojo Torres for a skills check to get your shop pass. Email tampamineral@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.

INSTRUCTOR LIST

Linda Collins

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

Christy Gorrow

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

Jim Kammel

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Faceting, faceting foreman

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Metal Clay, Lapidary. Metal Clay
foreman

Jojo Torres

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gmail.com
Lapidary

Leah Welch

rockabundance74@gmail.com
Intarsia and Lapidary

CASTING

Intro to wax carving and silver centrifuge casting

August 29-30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Full)
September 26-27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Full)
October 24-25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
November 21-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Click here
to sign up**



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.

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.



Club gem shows in Florida

September 12-13—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, Kids \$3, Scouts in uniform free; Vendors offering rocks, minerals, gemstones, fossils, beads, Jewelry, artifacts, handcrafted cabochons, etc. Silent auctions, door prizes, demonstrations and family activities. www.cfmgs.org

October 3-4—SANFORD: Show and sale; Florida Fossil Hunters; Sanford Civic Center, 401 E. Seminole Blvd; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; \$6/adult; \$2/child; Fossils, rocks, minerals, exhibits, children's activities, exhibits, silent auctions, bones. www.floridafossilhunters.com

November 7-8—TAMPA: Annual show; Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club; Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center, 4800 U.S. 301; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5; \$8 adults, \$7 seniors/military, free for kids 12 and under; 67th Annual Fall Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show. Over 60 vendors will showcase a remarkable

selection of unique slabs, cabochons, beads, gemstones, jewelry, and more. Whether you're a collector, creator, or simply love working with nature's materials, this event is perfect for you. Highlights include a kids' area featuring a sluice, a touch table with rock identification, a scavenger hunt, a mineral ID booth and a bean bag toss with prizes for kids and adults. Enter through the MLK entrance. Fairgrounds parking is \$12 at the gate. Prepurchase a parking pass for a discount at the fairgrounds website. This indoor, air-conditioned event offers a concession stand with lunch and refreshments, along with a conveniently located ATM. www.gem-showFL.com

November 14-15—MELBOURNE: Annual show; Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society; Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E Hibiscus Blvd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 age 12 and up; Hourly silent auction, kids' corner, opals, cut gems, beads, rough stone, slabs, tools, crystals, finished jewelry, findings, specimens and snack bar.

METAL CLAY

Introduction to Metal Clay



9 a.m.-4 p.m. August 29

9 a.m.-4 p.m. October 10

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.

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.



Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith

Drill breakage

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it's handheld in a flexshaft or a Dremel. Bits can easily break with too much pressure or if they tilt a little while in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.



"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

Sunday, August 9, 2026

8 a.m. FACETING, Day 2
8 a.m. Faceting Open Shop

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, August 15, 2026

9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m. WORK DAY
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, August 22, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m. WORK DAY
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop
11:30 a.m. INTERMEDIATE WIRE WRAPPING

Sunday, August 23, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, August 29, 2026

9 a.m. CASTING, Day 1
9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Sunday, August 30, 2026

9 a.m. CASTING, Day 2

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, September 5, 2026

8 a.m. FACETING, DAY 1
9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, September 6, 2026

8 a.m. FACETING, Day 2

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
6 p.m. DESIGN EXPLORATION

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, September 12, 2026

9 a.m. Grand Re-opening/Open House
9 a.m. Members' Tailgate
11:30 a.m. Members' meeting
1 p.m. STERLING BANGLE BRACE-LET

Monday, September 14, 2026

6:30 p.m. TBMSC Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
6 p.m. DESIGN EXPLORATION

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, September 19, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop
11 a.m. BEGINNING WIRE WEAVING

Sunday, September 20, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
6 p.m. DESIGN EXPLORATION

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, September 26, 2026

9 a.m. CASTING, Day 1

9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Sunday, September 27, 2026

9 a.m. CASTING, Day 2

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
6 p.m. DESIGN EXPLORATION

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, October 3, 2026

8 a.m. FACETING, DAY 1
9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, October 4, 2026

8 a.m. FACETING, Day 2

Monday, October 5, 2026

6:30 p.m. TBMSC Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, October 10, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, October 17, 2026

9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
4 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

12 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
5:30 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2026

Present: Lyra Solochek, Linda Collins, Carlo Lucin, Jojo Torres, Brenda Gregory, Christy Gorrow, Cindy Britten

Via Phone: Kathy Reed, Patti Kepple, Miles Bhave

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Approval of July meeting minutes.

- Motion to approve Brenda Gregory, Linda Collins seconded, approved by all.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Collins

- Vendor Checks for the Fall Show are coming in
- Renovation/Upgrade invoices are still coming in.
- First deposit for show venue has been paid, and next payment is in August and again in October
- Trying to activate club cell phone. Trying to clear user log-in issues from previous contact.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Cindy Britten, seconded by Jojo Torres, all approved

November show update: Lyra Solochek

- More than half of vendors have committed to show
- We're looking at around 65 vendors
- Considering relaxing three-table minimum.
- Looking for "findings" vendors
- Vendor application website is working again
- Need to order new shirts for show - just get screen printed shirts - maybe have a shirt vendor on site.
- Update logo now also Marketing for Show — Brenda and Lyra will get with other members with marketing experience for strategies increase marketing targeting students research area/community advertising

Old Business:

Construction Update: Lyra

- Metal Shop: new cabinets/ new tile on counters and backing.
- Main classroom — new tables, display cabinets
- Faceting room: New location is working out great. Instructor happy with arrangement. Classes are full and going well
- Middle room — Dining area with table and chairs. Food should not be in shop areas due to use of chemicals in those areas, as well as keeping the areas clean.
- Metal Clay area (back west side) needs to be set up in preparation for metal clay set-up.
- Electrical issues resolved: Kitchen fan needs disconnecting. Added a flood light to back door—works great!
- Back classroom: Needs setting up, office area also needs to be finished.
- FINAL MOVE: Moving everything back in from storage container. Workday scheduled for Aug. 15 and 22. Offering incentive for 6 volunteers: \$20 off next year's membership if worked one day, free membership if worked both days. Must sign up to qualify.

Department Updates

- Lapidary: Leah Welch has stepped down as the Lapidary Shop Forewoman. She and Cindy will continue to maintain machines and do some slab cutting. Brenda is scheduling the monitors.
- Silver: Silver classes are being restructured . Considering setting up a class focusing on tools in the Metal Shop. This may be a prerequisite for those who want to take casting.

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- Linda moved to purchase silver for future classes while the prices are low. Motion to approve by Cindy Britten, Jojo Torres seconded the motion, all approved. Discussed the need for a safe to store metals
- Table Crafts: Christy G. — Sessions continue on Wednesdays 12-3 p.m. and 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Linda C. — wire wrapping upon request; flexible days and times. Contact Linda C.
- Casting: Going well. July class a success. Next in late August.
- Faceting: Classes continue to be filled with each offering. New room is working out well.
- Metal Clay: Lyra Solochek — Next class will be end of August. Also Clay and Coffee “open shop” sessions will begin starting next month.
- Building maintenance: Brenda Gregory/Carlo Lucin — Windows in Faceting and Metal Shop need to be replaced.
- Getting estimates for new windows.
- Certification and reinstallation of fire extinguishers, fire inspection needed.
- Discussed design for rear entrance area — use asphalt instead of concrete, premade aluminum ramps

New Business:

- Lyra moved that the club purchase a permanent ConEX storage container. Motion to approve the purchase made by Christy Gorrow, seconded by Jojo Torres, approved by all.
- Phone and internet service: Switched to Frontier and Verizon, cancel T-Mobile
- Grand Reopening and general meeting: Sept. 12; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with tailgate, demos in each shop to showcase changes, refreshments served. Invite blade sharpener?
- Election committee — Lyra will run for ONE more term (2 years) as president. Need a new VP to train for the next election to take over president. 3 board seats up for election.
- United States Faceting Guild Faceting Meetup: January Meetup January 8-10) Guild will donate funds to use building. This is a free event for faceters. Prerequisite: ability to facet and have own machine. Some might be able to rent our machines for \$50 a day
- Board approved the sale of a single polishing machine to Peter Favaro

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. by Christy Gorrow and seconded by Jojo Torres. All approved.

Next board meeting: Sept. 14

Next general members meeting: Sept. 12

Treasurer's report is available upon request.

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ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

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

Board Members

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

*Term expires in 2027

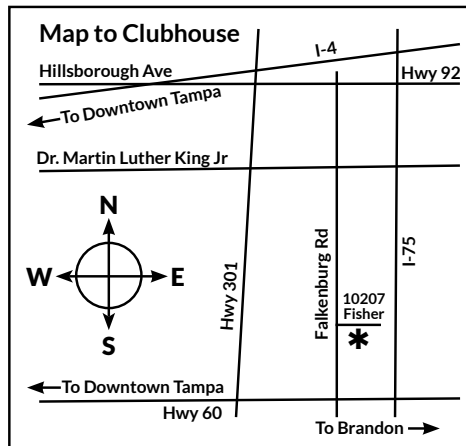
**Term expires in 2026

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	

Revised 1/2025