

THE CORAL GEODE

October 2026



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ABOUT OUR CLUB



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Calendar

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 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

What we've accomplished

Dear Members,

As you can see on the front page, we have a new logo! The board approved this version that represents more of what we do at the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: rockhounding, gem cutting, jewelry making, and of course, our origin – the coral geode – in our beautiful state of Florida.

We will start transitioning to the new image gradually. So you might see both old and new versions for a while.

We will have new T-shirts and merchandise at the November show with the new branding. So make sure you stop by the club table to check them out!

Thank you to designer Alesia Stevenson for the concept, and the Marketing Committee members Brenda Gregory and Jojo Torres who helped finalize our design.



Lyra Solochek
President

Guest speaker on Oct 22

This is short notice, but it'll be worth it! We will have a special presentation from a guest speaker from Idaho at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 22 at the club.

Paul Fullmer will talk about the geology of central Idaho, why they have such wonderful rockhounding there. Paul is a newsletter editor and member of the Idaho Falls Gem and Mineral Society.

This is a rare opportunity to get to know more about the mineral-rich state. Don't miss it. He might even have some samples to give away! Details on Page 4.

November Show

Our Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show is just a few weeks away on November 7-8. The vendor tables are almost full. I'm looking forward to some new vendors signed for this show.

Our Marketing Committee has been working hard to get the word out about the show via a heavy social media campaign. But we could use your help as well. We need the "street team" active in promoting the event. We have flyers at the club. Please take a few and post them on bulletin boards where you frequent, or ask businesses to post them on their windows.

What else can you do to help? Glad you asked. We need some volunteers to help at the event during the setup day on Friday, November 6, and during the show on November 7-8, at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Volunteers will help in these areas:

- kids table (sluicing, rock ID, bean bag toss, and bracelet making)
- club table (selling rocks, making/selling T-shirts, and generally interacting with the visitors to tell them about our club)
- admission table
- mystery shopper to monitor "problematic" shoppers
- fill in for solo vendors who need a break

We have an online signup available. Even a shift or two makes a big difference. I will assign tasks depending on need for the day. If you need special accommodations, like no heavy lifting or no standing, please indicate that in the comments field on the signup.

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Show volunteers receive free parking and admission to the show on the day or days they work. So please consider helping out!

Election Nominations

The election nomination application is now closed. The committee has a slate of candidates for the 2027 year. Positions up for election are president, vice president and 4 board seats.

We will have profiles of each candidate in the November Geode. Emails will go out to members for the online election mid November. In-person voting will take place on December 5, just before the general members meeting. Election results will be announced at the general members meeting.

USFG Faceting Meetup and seminar

The dates are locked in for the Meetpoint Meetup, sponsored by the United States Faceting Guild, on January 9-10, with January 8 as a setup day where attendees can prepare their machines a day earlier.

Preceding the event, we will have a great opportunity to learn about how to make X-cubes. Glass artist Cody Rosenberg will share how to create your own X-cubes, and how to facet them for maximum effects. More information on Page 5.



Class offerings

We still have lots of classes scheduled through the end of the year and beyond: Silver, table crafts, lapidary, advanced lapidary, more! Make sure you check them out and sign up!

And mark your calendars for guest instructor Chuck Bruce to return to the club for some classes on February 18-21, 2027. Class details will be in the November Geode.



New members!

Susan Kuhn
Larry Halse
Amanda Sizemore
Cheyenne Troche
Denise Troche
Ronald Malone

Nov. 6-8

Show volunteers needed

Our Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show is Nov. 7-8, with a setup day on Nov. 6. We will need volunteers for setup, running the show, and breaking down afterward. Volunteer signup is available [here](#). Please sign up for as many shifts as you can. The event's success depends on member participation.

Volunteers will receive free admission as well as parking to the show. A parking pass link will be emailed to those who sign up, so please make sure you have the correct email listed. Without the digital pass, you will have to pay for parking yourself.

Our semiannual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Shows are large sources of income for the club. Success depends on you, our club members. Please help out if you can.

**Click here
to sign up to
volunteer at the
show**



October 24 and 31

Show prep work days

We need a few volunteers to get boxes ready to move to the show venue. On October 24 and 31, we will go through what we have in the Show Shed to determine what we're going to sell at the club table. We also need to make sure we have everything necessary to set up our kids area.

We will work from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. October 24 and 31. Please come lend a hand.

GUEST SPEAKER: 6:30 P.M. OCTOBER 20



The mountain range just north of Paul's house.

Wonderful minerals of Idaho

We are very fortunate to have a visiting guest speaker at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20.

Paul Fullmer, who is in the area visiting his daughter, has reached out to offer us his presentation on the geology of central Idaho, and why there are such wonderful rockhounding there.

The presentation should be about an hour.

Lapidary open shop will be closed this day so all can attend the presentation.

We are hoping for a strong attendance to make it worth his while. Please join us!



Guest speaker Paul Fullmer sits on large petrified Idaho Sequoia.



A bolo tie Paul made from Prudent Man Agate

FACETING: MEETPOINT MEETUP

January 9-10, 2027

USFG Meetpoint Meetup coming to club!



Meetpoint Meetup in Franklin, North Carolina, in July.

Experienced faceters, take note. The United States Faceting Guild will host a Meetpoint Meetup here in Tampa 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 experience cutting 20-30 stones on your own. You must be comfortable using your own faceting machine. 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 TBMSC 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 our club on the map as a faceting destination.

To register for the event, please email lyrasolochek@gmail.com. There are only 15-20 seats available, so make your reservations today.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON JANUARY 8, 2027

Learn how to create your own X-cube

This is a bonus seminar available in conjunction with the Meetpoint Meetup. Glass artist Cody “Mr. Facet” Rosenberg of Atlanta will teach how to create an X-cube from scratch in this three-hour seminar.

What is an X-cube? The material, also known as dichroic cube, was originally created as an optical element of projection and display systems. It contains internal laminated dichroic film that reflects and transmits light, combining or separating RGB color. When faceted, the results are amazing.



Cody, who has 8 years of hands-on glass faceting experience, will show us the different stages of the process so students can see how he takes an original block of glass to the finished cube. He will also demonstrate faceting an X cube.

Students will:

- Receive instructions on a tested, repeatable process for both glass lamination and faceting;
- Get an up-close, small-group demonstration with plenty of time for

questions;

- Receive continued mentorship after the event;
- Have access to an educator discount for qualifying lapidary equipment and supplies.

The class will be approximately 3 hours on Friday, January 8, starting at 6 p.m. Class fee will be \$100 per person. To sign up, go to www.mrfacet.com/product-page/tampa-x-cube-faceting-class.



Cody Rosenberg, glass artist from Atlanta, facets a large glass piece at a Meetpoint Meetup in Franklin, North Carolina, in July.

FACETING



October faceting class



**Click here
to sign up**



Upcoming faceting classes

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. December 19-20
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. January 23-24

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 properly operate and care for 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.

METAL SHOP

New series for Fundamentals of Silver begins in October

The club is reorganizing the Fundamentals of Silver course, and we're ready to begin our first series.

Silver 1.1: October 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

In this introductory metalsmithing class, students will become familiar with the torch bench and other equipment used throughout the course, including hand tools, sanders, flex shafts, and chemicals. Safety is a key part of the class, with instruction on proper procedures and safe operation of all equipment in the metal shop.

Students will then put their skills into practice with two hands-on projects. The first project introduces basic hand sawing using a selected pattern, followed by cutting, sanding, and attaching a simple bail and chain. The second project focuses on creating a simple ring band, including cutting and sanding wire and adding a pattern to the ring before the final sanding.

Cost: \$138 (\$38 shop fee to reserve a seat, balance of \$100 to instructor on the day of class. Material cost may be adjusted due to change in market pricing.)

This class is a prerequisite for Silversmithing 1.2 and 1.3.

**Click here
to sign up**



Details and signups for the rest of the series will be provided to students at the end of the Silver 1.1 class.

Silver 1.2: October 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Split ring bracelet, set vertical or horizontal with a cabochon in a bezel setting.

Silver 1.3: November 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

A stone cabochon in a bezel setting with adornments around the bezel.

Silver 1.4 Catchup Day: November 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Makeup day to finish any projects you haven't completed. Pay the instructor \$6 per hour you stay.

Signups will be on Signup Genius. Silver 1.1 is posted. The other two signup links will be provided to students who complete the prerequisite classes.

Instructors will be Linda Collins, Kathy Reid and Cindy Britten.

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 manager 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 manager about getting one. If you have previous smithing experience, but did not take the Beginning class, talk to the shop manager 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.

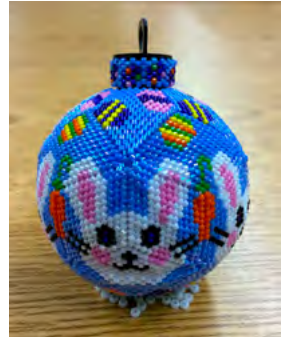
TABLE CRAFTS

Table craft sessions continue on Wednesdays

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. Contact Christy at christygorrow@gmail.com if you would like to attend. Tablecraft club fee is \$10 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



CLASSES

October 11, noon-3 p.m.

Spider Web earrings

**Click here
to sign up**



This is an easy project with no previous beading experience necessary. You can make both earrings in a 3-hour session. Perfect parent-child activity!

There are additional beads in shades of gray and sparkly grays if you want a more natural looking web.

Cost: \$13 (\$10 to reserve a seat, \$3 for materials payable to instructor the day of class.)

Instructor: Christy Gorrow



October 17, noon-4 p.m.

Beaded Pumpkin Earrings

**Click here
to sign up**



Easy to make. These little pumpkins are made around an 8mm bead, so they are small and lightweight. You can make both in a 3-hour session.

The class costs \$15. (Reserve a spot with a \$10 deposit on Signup Genius and the remaining \$5 will be paid to the instructor on the day of class.)

Instructor: Christy Gorrow



TABLECRAFT CLASSES

November 15, noon-3 p.m.

Holiday Earrings

[Click here to sign up](#)



Let's get ready for the season, making 2 pairs (snowflakes and holly/berries) in this 3-hour class. As you can see they are small, about the size of a quarter, and lightweight, plus they can be adapted for clip-on style earrings.

Cost: \$15 (Reserve a space with a \$10 deposit at Sign-Up Genius, then \$5 to the teacher on the day of the class.)

Come join the fun.

Instructor: Christy Gorrow



November 14, noon-3 p.m.

Holiday Cuties

[Click here to sign up](#)



Come Saturday, November 14 to make these CUTE holiday earrings. They're not quite bead weaving and they're not quite wire wrapping, but they are fun and easy. (No experience needed.) You should be able to make all three pairs in this 3-hour class.

The Santa Hat is small. The Elf is medium size, and the Toy Soldier is larger. If you think he's too big for an earring, we can add a jump ring and call him a pendant.

Cost: \$20 (Reserve a space with a \$10 deposit at SignUp Genius, then \$10 to the teacher on the day of the class.)

Instructor: Christy Gorrow



WIRE WRAPPING

October 10, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Wire-Wrapped Pumpkin Pendant

If you have completed your Introduction to Wire Wrapping classes and are ready for more, here's your opportunity to take your next steps. In this 3-4 hour class you step up your cabochon wrapping skills. In this class you will learn how to create a design to wrap this pumpkin cabochon, adding decorative wrapping to complete this design. You will be selecting an round or oval cab for this project. This stone will be wrapped with a simple bail 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). Hope to see you soon!

Cost: \$41 (\$16 club fee to reserve a seat, pay balance of \$25 to instructor day of class.)

Instructor: Linda Collins

[Click here to sign up](#)



LAPIDARY

Let's review the Lapidary Shop rules

- You must be a member, and have a shop pass (by completing a Beginning Cabochon class, or with shop manager approval).
- All members must sign in and sign out when using the Shop.
- Loose clothing, long hair, ties, dangling jewelry, scarves, etc., must be secured or tied up to prevent them from being caught in rotating machines. Closed-toe shoes only. No sandals.
- Dop sticks stay in the shop. Do not take them home with you.
- Cabs must be preformed on the metal wheels before going to the resin wheels 280 and up. There should be no sharp edges. This is to prevent the wheels from getting gouged and ruined. If you're cutting a teardrop shape or anything with angular corners, make sure the pointed part is pointed down, away from the rotation of the wheel.
- Work the cabs through the grits in sequence. Finish one level completely before moving on. Do not skip. If a scratch is there at 600, it won't go away on a 3000.
- Nothing harder than 7.5 on the Mohs scale. No rubies or corundum.
- Only work on stones, crystals or glass. No metal, wood, ceramics, resin, amber or plastic.
- Prohibited materials: Pyrite, Psilomelane, shells and bones, Bumblebee Jasper, and other toxic or radioactive materials. Fossilized shells are allowed. Don't cut unless you know what it is. When in doubt, ask the staff.
- The diamond grinding wheels are not to be used for large rocks; they are for cabochon grinding use only.
- The shop is for personal projects only. No commercial or mass production.
- Do not bring a batch of cabs for polishing only.
- Clean the work area thoroughly after use. The last 15 minutes before the end of your session should be dedicated to cleaning up.
- Harassment, intimidation, or any disruptive behavior is not tolerated.
- Violating these shop rules, repeatedly misusing equipment or ignoring instructor/monitor warnings may result in suspension or permanent banishment from the Lapidary Shop.



Help us take care of our equipment

By Jojo Torres
Lapidary shop manager

Hello cabbers,
To keep our tools lasting as long as possible and ensure everyone shares the same expectations, we are reinforcing our lapidary shop rules. This year, two wheels were ruined due to improper use of the equipment, specifically by using rough edges on resin-backed wheels.

During open shop, members may cut, cab, and polish up to three stones. Please note that the small saws in the open shop area are strictly for trimming already-made slabs and are not designed for making slabs from raw specimens. Additionally, the cabbing machines are strictly for making cabochons and must not be used to cut or polish raw specimens.

Moving forward, a monitor must *always* be present in the shop when the machines are in use, and members are required to follow their instructions.

For those interested in getting some slabs cut, we offer a slabbing service. With our newly trained staff, we expect to provide a quicker turnaround for smaller rocks.

We will be adding more safety signage regarding what materials can be cut. If you are unsure about a material's safety or toxicity, you must check with the lapidary staff or the shop manager before cutting.

The club reserves the right to revoke shop privileges if a member fails to adhere to shop rules or monitor requests.



If you see club members Cindy Britten and Leah Welch, please thank them for their hard work with lapidary shop maintenance. They've kept the machines in top shape so club members can continue to enjoy using the shop.

LAPIDARY

Saw orientation for our lapidary team



Leah Welch recently trained some lapidary staffers on how to club slabs on our slab saws.



LAPIDARY

October 17, 1-4 p.m.

Chasing the Color in Velvet Obsidian

In this intermediate cabbing class, you will learn how to orient a velvet obsidian rock to bring out the colors and take the cabochon to a high polish.

**Click here
to sign up**



Cost: \$42 (includes shop fee deposit of \$20, and material and instructor fee of \$22 payable the day of class)

Prerequisite: Completion of the Beginning Cabochon class or past cabbing experience

Wear closed-toed shoes. No loose clothing, and long hair must be tied back. Bring a waterproof apron, an

Optivisor/magnifier, and a towel.

Instructor: Lyra Solochek

NOTE: Class must meet two-student minimum.



NEW RULE FOR LAPIDARY SHOP: Along with waterproof aprons and magnifier, please bring your own towels to dry the stones and yourself.

Beginning Cabochon classes

- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. November 14-15
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. December 12-13
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m. January 5, 6, 12, 13 (Week-days)
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. January 16-17

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.

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 any new arrivals during the last hour.

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.

**Click here
to sign up**



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

CASTING

September casting class



INSTRUCTOR LIST

Linda Collins

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

Christy Gorrow

christygorrow@gmail.com
Instructor for Beading,
Kumihimo, Viking Knit,
Chaining and Intarsia

Jim Kammel

jmkammel@gmail.com
Faceting, Faceting Shop Manager

Mark Lauer

mdl3153@aol.com
Casting

Lyra Solochek

lyrasolochek@gmail.com
Metal Clay, Lapidary, Metal Clay
Manager

Jojo Torres

ceramics.johannatorres@
gmail.com
Lapidary, Lapidary Manager

Leah Welch

rockabundance74@gmail.com
Intarsia and Lapidary

METAL CLAY

Clay & Coffee, a metal clay social

10 a.m.-2 p.m. October 18

10 a.m.-2 p.m. November 15

Clay & Coffee is an Open Shop for metal clay students. We gather in an informal setting to create, socialize, and learn from each other. The instructor will be on hand to troubleshoot or answer questions, but this is not a class. This is primarily your opportunity to create with metal clay on your own.

Cost: \$25 for shop fee, includes a kiln firing of up to two silver pieces. (These may be picked up at a later date.) You may borrow the club's tools, but you must provide your own clay and materials. Some supplies may be available to purchase from the instructor.

Prerequisite: You must have completed Intro to Metal Clay (or have past experiences with metal clay). Must be a club member.

Gem shows in Florida

October 17-18 — PORT ST. LUCIE: 49th Annual Rock Gem and Jewelry Show sponsored by the St. Lucie County Rock and Gem Club, MidFlorida Event Center, 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place. Sat. 9-5, Sun 10-4. \$6, free for children with adult. Handcrafted jewelry, gemstones, beads, rocks, minerals, slabs, tools, supplies, demonstrations, raffles. srockandgem.org.

November 7-8—TAMPA: 67th Annual Fall Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show sponsored by Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club; Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center, 4800 U.S. 301; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; \$8 adults, \$7 seniors/military, free for kids 12 and under; Over 60 vendors will showcase a remarkable selection of unique slabs, cabochons, beads, gemstones, jewelry, and more. Kids' area featuring a sluice, rock identification, a scavenger hunt, 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. Event offers a concession stand with lunch and refreshments, ATM. www.gemshowFL.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.

November 21-22—WEST PALM BEACH: Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches; South Florida Fairgrounds-Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$11, Children under 12 Free,



2 Day Pass \$16, Free Parking; Over 90 retail dealers, featuring gemstones, jewelry, rare minerals, fossils, beads, crystals, handcrafted art and one-of-a-kind treasures. Family-friendly fun, gem & fossil mining, geode cracking, demonstrations, speakers, exhibits, hourly giveaways, door prizes, raffle & silent auction. GMSPB.org

December 4-6—HUDSON: Annual show; Withlacoochee Rockhounds; Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Road; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$8 Adults, Children Under 12 Free. withlacoocheerockhounds.com.

December 12-13—MIAMI: Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild; Better Families through Tae Kwon Do, 6723 SW 81st Street; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; \$10 for adults; children under 12 free with a paid adult; The show will feature vendors offering gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, rocks, crystals, lapidary materials, arts and crafts, and more. Mineral displays and exhibits, children's activities and geode cutting. www.miami-gemshow.com

Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith

Emery boards

I feel the key to getting a lustrous polish on your jewelry work is having a good selection of sandpaper handy for pre-polishing before going to the buffer. I generally start around 400 grit and then go to 800 and 1200.

While some projects do require sheets of sandpaper, my favorite way of sanding small jewelry items is to use emery boards for doing your nails. I like the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

These nail boards are inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company, at your local drug store, or from Amazon.



"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: 1-8 p.m.

Thursday: By appointment

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



vecteezy.com

CLASSES, OPEN SHOP AND EVENTS

Saturday, October 10, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m. INTRO TO METAL CLAY
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop
12:30 p.m. WIRE WRAPPED PUMPKIN PENDANT

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2
12 p.m. SPIDERWEB EARRING

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
9 a.m. SILVER 1.1
12 p.m. BEADED PUMPKIN EARRINGS
1 p.m. LAPIDARY: VELVET OBSIDIAN

Sunday, October 18, 2026

10 a.m. CLAY AND COFFEE

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
6:30 p.m. Paul Fuller presentation

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

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

Saturday, October 24, 2026

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

Sunday, October 25, 2026

9 a.m. CASTING, Day 2

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

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

Saturday, October 31, 2026

9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m. SILVER 1.2

Monday, November 2, 2026

6:30 p.m. TBMSC Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

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

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

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

Thursday, November 5, 2026-

Sunday, November 8, 2026
CLUB CLOSED FOR GEM SHOW

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

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

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

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

Saturday, November 14, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m. SILVER 1.3
12 p.m. CHRISTMAS CUTIES EARRINGS

Sunday, November 15, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2
12 p.m. BEADED HOLIDAY EARRINGS

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

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

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

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

Saturday, November 21, 2026

9 a.m. CASTING, Day 1
9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop
1 p.m. WIRE CHRISTMAS EARRINGS

Sunday, November 22, 2026

9 a.m. CASTING, Day 2

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

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

Wednesday, November 25, 2026

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

Saturday, November 28, 2026

9 a.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m. SILVER 1.4 Catchup Day

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

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

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

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

Saturday, December 5, 2026

9 a.m. Members' Tailgate
11:30 a.m. Members' meeting
12 p.m. Holiday potluck

Monday, December 7, 2026

6:30 p.m. TBMSC Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

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

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

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

Saturday, December 12, 2026

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

Sunday, December 13, 2026

9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, December 15, 2026

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

Wednesday, December 16, 2026

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

Saturday, December 19, 2026

8 a.m. FACETING, DAY 1

Sunday, December 20, 2026

8 a.m. FACETING, Day 2

Monday, December 21, 2026-Sunday, January 3, 2027

Club closed for holidays

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2026

Call to Order: 6:34 p.m. by Lyra Solochek

Present: Lyra Solochek, Jojo Torres, Christy Gorrow, Kathy Reid, Cindy Britten, Brenda Gregory, Miles Bhave, Carlo Lucin, Linda Collins.

Via Phone: Patti Kemple

Non-board member: Alesia Stevenson

Approval of September Minutes

- The minutes from the September meeting were approved. Linda Collins made the motion, Kathy Reid seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report —Linda Collins

- Fall Show payments are still coming in.
- Three insurance payments are due this month.
- There were no unusual expenditures this month.
- Brenda Gregory made motion to approve, Kathy Reid seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

November Show update— Lyra Solochek

- There are currently 59 vendors.
- Volunteer signup is live and active.
- Shirt orders with the new logo will be placed this week.
- Facebook and Instagram posts are ongoing.
- A new banner for the Gemorama advertisement is ready. Lyra Solochek will deliver it to the show.
- An email campaign is being launched.
- The need for an additional point-of-sale card reader was discussed.
- The method for distributing door prizes will be changed to increase visibility for the vendor who donated each prize.
- The grand prize will be a high-quality pendant.
- Sluice bags need to be filled in preparation for the show.
- Workdays are scheduled for October 24 and October 31 and are listed on SignUpGenius.

Old Business

- Construction Update — Lyra Solochek
Remaining construction projects include:
A utility sink for the lapidary and faceting areas.
Cabinets and a countertop for the craft area.
Additional funding of approximately \$3,500–\$4,000 to complete the upgrades.
A motion to approve the funds was made by Linda Collins and seconded by Kathy Reid.
- Election Committee Nominations
The following candidates were listed:
Lyra Solochek — President
Jojo Torres — Vice President
Russel Hislip — Board of Directors
Elizabeth Creamer — Board of Directors
Miles Bhave — Board of Directors
Carlo Lucin — Board of Directors

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New Business

- **USFG Faceting Meetup**
The meetup is scheduled for January 8–10.
The United States Faceting Guild is sponsoring the event.
Cody Rosenberg, a glass artist, will present a seminar on making X-Cubes on January 8 from 6–9 p.m. The seminar costs \$100 per person. Information has been posted in Geode.
- **Guest Speaker**
Paul Fullmer of the Idaho Falls Gem & Mineral Society will speak on October 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Lapidary open shops will be canceled that evening.
- **New Logo Design**
A motion was made to approve the new club logo design, by Cindy Britten and seconded by Jojo Torres. All approve.
- **Tampa Museum of Art Partnership**
Brenda Gregory presented a proposal and curriculum for partnering with the Tampa Museum of Art to offer jewelry-making classes. The program would use the metal shop once a week for six weeks, from 6–9 p.m. This proposal concerns a potential program for next spring. This would generate shop and membership fees for the club.

Department Updates

- **Lapidary: Jojo Torres and Cindy Britten**
Review equipment statuses.
Establish standards for slabbing and cabbing.
- **Silver: Linda Collins**
Silver room setup is almost completed. Silver class resumes Oct. 17. Continues Oct. 31 and Nov. 14
- **Table Crafts: Linda Collins and Christy Gorrow**
Classes will set before the show, wire classes scheduled through January. Interest in viking knit.
- **Casting: Lyra Solochek**
Continues to be full. Instructor considered offering casting service, but decided against it because success rate could vary, and we did not want the club to be responsible if failed.
- **Faceting: Lyra Solochek**
Continues to be well attended. Meetpoint Meetup in January, plus X-cube seminar
- **Metal Clay: Lyra Solochek**
Class this weekend. Clay and Coffee metal clay social begins this month
- **Building Maintenance: Brenda Gregory and Carlo Lucin**
Fire extinguishers have been recertified. Brenda and Carlo will begin working on back door and other maintenance.

Important dates:

- Next board meeting: Nov. 16
- 10/9-10/11 Gemorama
- 10/24, 10/31 Fall Show prep
- 11/6 Movers to show, Fall Show setup
- 11/7-8 Fall Show
- 11/8 Movers back to club
- 12/5 Members meeting/holiday potluck

Adjourn: 8:44 p.m.

Treasurer's report is available upon request.

ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

Lyra Solocheck, 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



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](#)

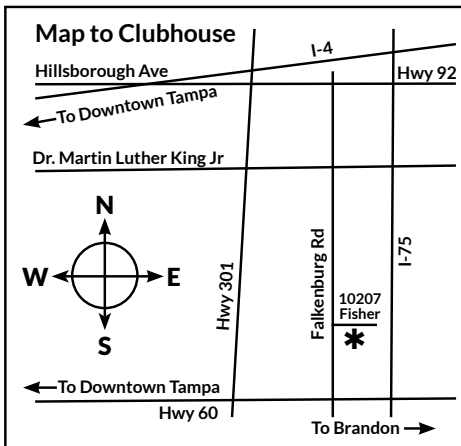
Additionally, the [Tampa Bay Fossil Club](#) hosts fossil-hunting field trips. Go to their website for more information.

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