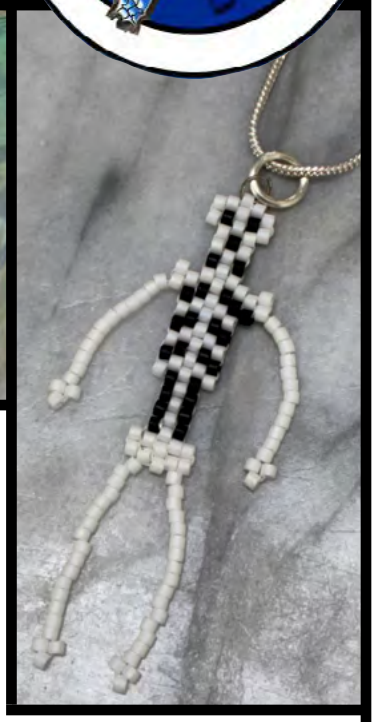
THE CORAL GEODE

September 2026



A full slate of classes!

Beading, wire craft, metal clay and more to finish the year strong. Plus, a new Fundamentals of Silver series begins. See Inside.

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's message, 2
- New members, 3
- Faceting Meetup, 5
- Faceting, 6
- Metal Shop, 7
- Table crafts, 8
- Wire wrapping, 10
- Lapidary, 12
- Instructors, 13
- Florida gem shows, 13
- Casting, 14
- Metal Clay, 15
- Bench Tips, 16
- Calendar, 17
- Members meeting minutes, 18
- Board meeting minutes, 19

ABOUT OUR CLUB

Address:
10207 Fisher Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33619

Email:
info@tampabayrockclub.org

Phone:
(813) 684-2039

Website:
tampabayrockclub.org

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 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What we've accomplished

Lyra Solochek
President

Dear Members,

The interior renovations are mostly complete, and the club has a whole new look! Our Grand Re-Opening on Sept. 12 was well attended, and it was great to hear so many members say how happy they are with the changes. The new floors and freshly painted walls really brighten up the spaces and give the clubhouse a more modern feel.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Main Room: The main room now has a clean, modern look, with new display cabinets for our specimen collection. It will continue to serve as our primary classroom, and I think it makes a great first impression for visitors.
- Metal Shop: We renovated the soldering bench and added a fourth station. We've also added or upgraded some equipment for members to use.
- Faceting Room: Faceting now has its own dedicated room, away from the distractions of the previous open layout.
- Metal Clay Area: We added electrical outlets along the outside wall, giving us more flexibility to set up additional equipment.
- Second Classroom: We converted the former faceting area into a second open classroom. This space will be used for smaller table crafts and metal clay classes, and it also houses our club office desk.
- Dining Area: We added a dining table for snacks and lunches. Please help us keep food and drinks in this area rather than in the shops.

Of course, we're not done yet! Over the next several months, we'll continue working on improvements around the clubhouse. Some of the items on our to-do list include:

- Adding more storage by placing containers on site
- Re-doing and finishing the back entryway, along with other ADA improvements
- Replacing windows
- Making additional improvements to the lapidary area

I thank all those who pitched in. In addition to our board members, I thank all those you showed up regularly to help: Russ Hislip, his wife Cindy, and his daughter Heather; Elizabeth Creamer and her son Gabe and Gabe's friend Chris; Nancy Polis; and Ken Moser. And a special "thank you" to my husband Jeff and daughter Yoko who are often "volun-told" to help.

November Show

The Fall Show is coming up fast — November 7–8, with setup on November 6. We'll be hosting more than 60 vendors at the Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center.

If you're not familiar with our shows, the club hosts two Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Shows each year, and they are two of our major fundraisers. They are completely volunteer-run, so the success of the shows depends on our members pitching in.

Show volunteers receive free parking and admission to the show on the day or days they work. So please consider helping out! We have an online signup available, and even a shift or two makes a big difference.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Election Nominations

Would you like to become more involved in the leadership of the club? This year, we'll be electing officers and board members for the 2027–28 term. The positions up for election are President, Vice President, and three Board of Directors seats.

The board meets once a month, usually on the first Monday of the month.

We're also adding a new perk: membership dues for officers and board members will be covered while they are serving their term.

If you're interested in running for a position or would like to learn more about what's involved, please reach out to Brenda Gregory or Linda Collins.

USFG Faceting Meetup

TBMSC is partnering with the United States Faceting Guild (USFG) for a "Meetpoint Meetup" — a gathering where faceters can cut the same material and work on the same design together.

This is a free event sponsored by the USFG and is open to faceters who have already cut several stones on their own, since some experience is required. Participants will need to bring their own equipment and supplies needed to facet a stone.

This will be the first meetup of this kind in Florida, and we're excited to host it at TBMSC. It's a great opportunity to bring faceters together, introduce more people to our club, and showcase what we have to offer as a faceting destination.

Membership Prorating

I believe our membership offers a lot of value for what we provide — a great facility, well-equipped workshops, knowledgeable instructors, and, of course, the wonderful camaraderie that makes this club special.

We also want to encourage people to join throughout the year rather than feeling like they need to wait until the beginning of the year. To make that easier, the board has decided to offer prorated membership fee — $25 — for anyone joining during the second half of the year. This will go into effect starting in 2027.

So if you know someone who has been thinking about joining, now is a great time to invite them to check us out!

Class Offerings

We have a full slate of classes from all of our departments for the remainder of the year, including beading, wire crafts, metal clay, lapidary, faceting, casting, and our new silver course.

There's something for everyone, whether you're brand new to the club or looking to learn a new technique. Check out the class listings in this newsletter for all the details.

And as always, thank you to everyone who has helped make the club's renovations, events, and classes possible. So much of what we accomplish here happens because members are willing to volunteer their time and share their skills. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together in the months ahead!

New members!

Dottie Springer
Juan Rodriguez
Khanh Luu
Adriana Alvarez

Show volunteers needed

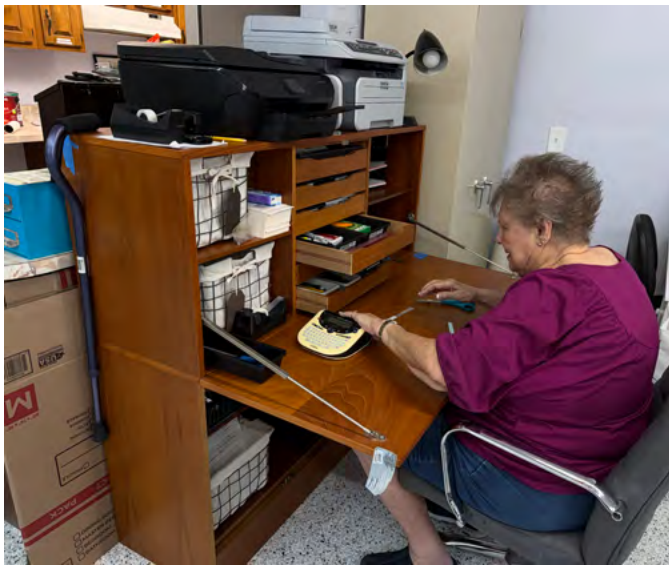
Our Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show is Nov. 7-8, with a setup day on Nov. 6. We will need volunteers for setup, running the show, and breaking down afterward. Volunteer signup is available here. Please sign up for as many shifts as you can. The event's success depends on member participation.

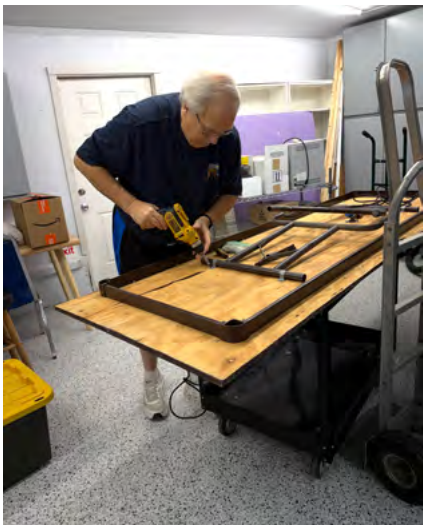
Volunteers will receive free admission as well as parking to the show. A parking pass link will be emailed to those who sign up, so please make sure you have the correct email listed. Without the digital pass, you will have to pay for parking yourself.

Click here to sign up to volunteer at the show

SignUpGenius

Thank you, volunteers! The club looks amazing!





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. 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.

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

Learn how to create your own X-cube

Bonus session in conjunction with the Meetup: We're working with glass artist Cody Rosenberg of Atlanta who is willing to teach how to create an X-cube from scratch.

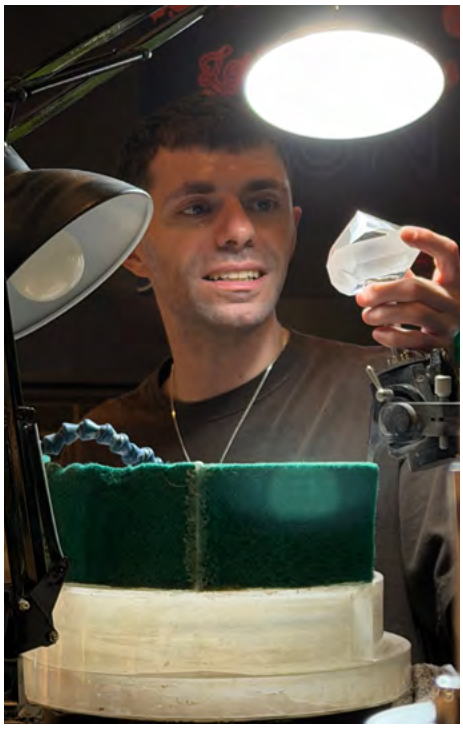
What is an X-cube? The material, also known as dichroic cube, was originally created as an optical element of projection and display systems. It contains internal laminated dichroic film that reflects and transmits light, combining or separating RGB color. When faceted, the results are amazing.

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.

A little about what students would be getting from the class:

- Instructions on a tested, repeatable process for both glass lamination and faceting
- An up-close, small-group demonstration with plenty of time for questions
- Explanation of not only how he does each step, but why it works
- Continued mentorship after the event
- Access to his educator discount for qualifying lapidary equipment and supplies

The class will be a 3- to 3.5-hour session on Friday evening before the Meetpoint Meetup. Class fee will be $100. Signup details to be announced soon.



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

FACETING

September faceting students

Faceting classes remain popular

- **9 a.m.-3 p.m. September 5-6**
- **9 a.m.-3 p.m. October 3-4**
- **9 a.m.-3 p.m. December 19-20**
- **9 a.m.-3 p.m. January 23-24**

Click here to sign up

SignUpGenius

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 almost ready to begin our first series.
Silver 1.1: October 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Silver 1.2: October 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Silver 1.3: November 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Silver 1.4 Catchup Day: November 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Signups will be on Signup Genius. Silver 1.1 is posted. The other two will be posted in October. There will be 5 seats for each class.
Instructors will be Linda Collins, Kathy Reid and Cindy Britten.

October 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Silversmithing 1.1

Click here to sign up

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.

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.

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. 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

September 26, noon-3 p.m.

Beaded Skeleton Pendant

Intermediate level, some knowledge of Ladder and Brick Stitch is helpful.
This little cutie is easy but time consuming. In a 3-hour session you should be able to complete 1 pendant. If you want to make earrings, I suggest you come to a Table Crafts session either Wednesday afternoon from 12 to 3, or evening from 5:30 to 8:30 for the same $12 cost and you could make a second skeleton and be given ear wires for both. Otherwise, you can set up another time slot with Christy.

Click here to sign up

Cost: $12 (Seat reservation $10 deposit on Signup Genius, and $2 materials fee paid to the instructor at the class)
If you're interested in a 20 inch silver-plated chain for the pendant, the cost is $10 paid to the instructor.
Instructor: Christy Gorrow

October 3, noon-4 p.m.

Festival of Lights Bangle Bracelet

Check out this bright, sparkly, beaded bracelet. It's made by simply stringing beads. You need superdos, 4mm bicones, 11/0 and 15/0 round seed beads, plus some type of clasp. I've scheduled a class on July 18 from 12-4 pm. It's based on Jill Wiseman's Festival of Lights Bangle bracelet, but as you can see in the picture it has a toggle clasp.

Click here to sign up

Cost: $30 (includes materials) You can sign up with a $14 deposit to SignUp Genius and the materials fee of $16 paid to the instructor on the day of the class). If you wish to use your own materials contact me after signing up and I'll send you a materials list.
No previous experience needed.
Instructor: Christy Gorrow

TABLE CRAFT 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!
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

November 15, noon-3 p.m.

Holiday Earrings

Click here to sign up

Let's get ready for the season, make 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

WIRE WRAPPING

Sterling bracelet class in September

WIRE WRAPPING

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

Beginner's Wire Weaving

Click here to sign up

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.

Cost: $89 (shop fee $24 to reserve, class $65)

Instructor: Linda Collins

October 3, 1-4 p.m.

Paper clip chain bracelet

Click here to sign up

This new project will focus on chain making. This bracelet was introduced at our Gem and Mineral Show last year. It was quite popular.

Once you have mastered this basic method, you can change the size and style variations such as the wire size, color, and length of chain. It can also be varied by adding pearls, beads or small cabochons to one of the rows of your bracelet. All materials will be included in the class fee. Tools available on loan if needed. You should bring your own magnifiers and closed-toed shoes are required. Hope to see you soon!

Cost: $40 ($15 club fee to reserve a seat, pay the balance of $25 to instructor, cash or check.)

Instructor: Linda Collins

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

Wire-Wrapped Pumpkin Pendant

Click here to sign up

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 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

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, please bring your own towels to dry the stones and yourself.

Beginning Cabochon classes

- **9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. September 19-20**
- **9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. October 10-11**
- **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 (Weekdays)**
- **9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. January 16-17**

Click here to sign up

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.
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.

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 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, Prepaid 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 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

Gem shows in Florida

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

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. slrockandgem.org.

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.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.

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

CASTING

Intro to wax carving and silver centrifuge casting

September 26-27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Full)
October 24-25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Full)
November 21-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Full)
January 30-31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Full)
February 27-28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
March 27-28, 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.

METAL CLAY

Introduction to Metal Clay

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!

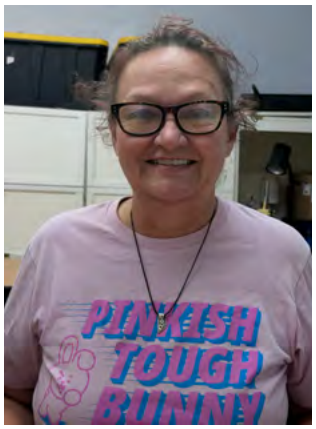
Click here to sign up

SignUpGenius

You will make a pendant with a fold-over 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.



New: Clay & Coffee, a metal clay open shop

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.

Click here to sign up

SignUpGenius

Cost: $25 for shop fee, includes a kiln firing of up to two 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.

Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith

Find the balance point

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers.

Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point toward each other.

To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see if it hangs straight.

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

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

Each technique is explained in detail with:

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

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

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

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

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

CALENDAR

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, September 19, 2026
9 a.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop
11 a.m. 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

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
12 p.m. BEADED SKELETON PENDANT

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

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
12 p.m. FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS BANGLE BRACELET
1 p.m. PAPER CLIP BRACELET

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
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
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop
12 p.m. BEADED PUMPKIN EARRINGS
1 p.m. LAPIDARY: VELVET OBSIDIAN

Sunday, October 18, 2026
10 a.m. CLAY AND COFFEE

Monday, October 19, 2026
8 a.m. FACETING, DAY 1

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

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
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop

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 5-8, 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. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m. SILVER 1.3
10 a.m. Metal Open Shop
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

TBMSC General Membership Minutes

September 12 , 2026

Called to order 11:30 a.m.
Motion to approve minutes of previous general meeting approved

- Club president Lyra Solochek offers thanks to all volunteers and board members who helped prepare the club building for its reopening. The next phase of the improvement project includes repairs to the concrete ramp outside the back entrance, window replacement and possibly air conditioning upgrades.
- Elections: Anyone interested in serving on the board can contact election committee members Linda Collins or Brenda Gregory for information. Currently no one has submitted their name to serve as vice president. Online voting will begin Nov. 4, with in-person voting to take place on Dec. 5, which is the club holiday party and next quarterly general meeting.
- Fall gem show: The show will run at the Florida State Fairgrounds Nov. 7-8, with setup on Nov. 6. Volunteers are needed for all three days. There also will be show preparation days at the club on Oct. 24 and 31. An online signup sheet will be available soon.
- Gemorama in Plant City is taking place Oct. 9-11. The club will advertise our Fall gem show there, but will have minimal staffing at the show. No extra volunteers are needed. For other show advertising, the club asks members to distribute flyers at locations they frequent throughout the region. Other ideas to promote the event are welcome. Contact Lyra or other members of the show committee.
- Classes: A full slate of classes is on the calendar now that the club renovations are complete. Linda is rede-signing the silver course lineup with a new set of projects and skills, and is seeking feedback on the types and timing of classes. More details will be published in an upcoming club newsletter.
- Logo: In an effort to modernize the logo, and show that the club is about more than just rocks, a committee offered an updated version for consideration. The board still must approve the proposal. If accepted, the new logo will be placed on T-shirts and other apparel and merchandise for the upcoming gem show.
- Visiting instructors:
  - Chuck Bruce will be at the club the weekend of Feb. 20 for two one-day classes and one two-day class. These will include chainmail, knives and inlays.
  - Terry Hickey is willing to come to the club for a 3-4 day class on glass cloisonne pendants and bracelets in metal clay, if there is enough interest. Kathy says the price will be about half of taking the same lessons at William Holland in Georgia.
  - There also is a possibility that Michael Marx might return for another metal clay workshop next year.
  - Faceting meetup: The U.S. Faceting Guild is having a meetup event at our club on Jan. 9-10. The event includes networking, social activities and cutting stones together. It's intended for experienced faceters.
- The next general meeting is Dec. 5., which is also our Holiday Potluck.
- Meeting adjourns at 12 p.m.

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026

Present: Lyra Solochek, Linda Collins, Jojo Torres, Brenda Gregory, Christy Gorrow, Cindy Britten, Kathy Reid.
Call to Order: 6:55 p.m.

Motion to approve minutes fromAugust meeting: motion made by Linda Collins, seconded by Kathy Reid, approved by all

Treasurer's Report: Linda Collins

- Will pay off balance due to Fairgrounds
- Treasurer's report will be more detailed in future
- Switch Frontier and TECO, set up auto-pay to save $
- Insurance Payments (all 3 policies) renew in next two months
- Issues with stripe; keeps disconnecting from website
- Discussed setting up a separate PayPal account just for the show, and adding Zelle for in-house payments
- Motion to approve report Brenda Gregory, Seconded by Kathy Reid, approved unanimously.

November show update: Lyra Solochek

- Event signups – most vendors are reducing # of tables due to the economy; still have tables available; want 60 vendors – right now have 50 vendors room for about 12 vendors.
- Shirt orders must go in ASAP – Marketing team meet to handle the new logo and shirts.
- Volunteer signups – on Sign-up Genius will be posted
- Marketing and advertising efforts (social, street) Flyers have gone out.
- Florida club network/Gem Clubs in Florida are now cooperating with each other for advertising upcoming shows.

Old Business:
Construction Update: Lyra

- Club House is looking Good! Members were amazed at transformation. A few items still pending
- Casting Closet in main room now has lock
- Outlets added in Metal Clay area
- Remaining projects :
- Windows for Silver, Faceting and Utility room
- Stainless Steel Utility sink for utility room
- Display Cabinet Locks — ordered 4 from Amazon to try.
- AC needs to go on the maintenance list to keep drain pan open and flowing.

Open House report: Lyra

- Well attended, no new members signed up

Election committee

- Russ Hislip and Elizabeth Creamer will run for board seats
- Questionnaires will be given to candidates soon then online voting after Fall Show; In-person voting on December 5 at a General Members' Meeting. Results announced at General Meeting

USFG Faceting Meetup

- On January 8-10 – Building will be closed for those days
- USFG is giving the club a grant for the event.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

- 15-20 participants expected.
- Benefits club with national exposure.

Website update - issues with payment Looking at options.

Conex update
- price for used is about $2,500/per unit.
- Might need to have professional installation to help with leveling to prevent sagging.

Department Updates
- Lapidary: Jojo Torres (Shop Manager)
  - Monitors had a meeting to go over some rules and use of equipment
  - Clarified Rules – will be posted; safety signage; rock safety
  - Equipment statuses – Cindy will get with Jojo to see what is needed.
  - New towel rule – bring your own.
- Silver: Linda Collins (Shop Manager)
  - Open Metal Shop Tuesdays 1-6pm; Sat. 10am-1pm
  - Discussed ordering Silver to replenish current stock
  - Solder provided for class participants.
  - New Metal classes begin. Description and prices pending
  - October 17th Intro 1.1 Hours 9-4
  - October 31 Silver 1.2
  - November14 Silver 1.3
- Table Crafts: Christy Gorrow:
  - Open crafts every Wednesday 12-3 & 5:30-8:30
  - Halloween 9/26 Skeleton pendant 12-3 pm
  - 10/3 Sparkly bracelet
  - Christmas beaded earrings (1 class) November 15; 12-3pm
  - Christmas Tree beaded earrings/pendant November 22; 1-3pm
- Table Crafts: Linda Collins:
  - Christmas wire and bead earrings November 21; 1-4pm
- Casting: Lyra Solochek
  - Classes are full through January
- Faceting: Lyra Solochek
  - Classes have been full, now up to four students each session instead of three.
  - New room seems to be working out very well.
- Metal Clay: Lyra Solochek
  - Next Intro to Metal Clay class is Oct. 10
  - Also will start Clay and Coffee, open shop for Metal Clay, on October 18
- Building maintenance
  - Certification and reinstallation of fire extinguishers required
  - A/C needs regular maintenance
  - Fire inspection needs to be scheduled after extinguishers are certified
  - Pest control. Sprayed perimeter of building as well as interior. Discussed status of termite monitoring

New Business:
- New logo design: Discussion about subtle changes. Board will receive final version to vote on.
- Gemorama – Oct 9-11 Advertising/Product (Table) only
- Tampa Museum of Art – Studio 55 (they offer grants?) income sliding scale. Want to have a jewelry class, they

Continued from previous page

would pay an instructor $300/class at our location. More information is needed before moving forward.

- Board membership – Proposed that Board Members get free membership while serving. Motion to approve made by Cindy Britten, seconded by Kathy Reid, carried by all.
- Expense reimbursement: Pay for mileage to pick up estates/ admission fees for attending shows to recruit vendors.
- Membership year: Discussion to prorate July to November at half price for remainder of calendar year. Motion to approve Linda, Kathy seconded, all approved.
- Planning for Holiday Potluck event: Needs to start now, collect raffle items

- Next board meeting: Oct. 5
- Adjourned 10 p.m.

Treasurer's report is available upon request.

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 Bhave**
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.

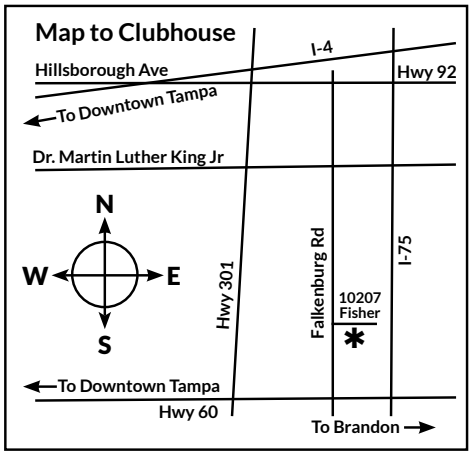
Membership Application

***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* ☐ Email ☐ Text ☐ Phone	Are you willing to receive your monthly newsletter by Email? ☐ Yes ☐ No
I hereby apply for membership for myself and others listed above, and agree not to hold any claims against the club.* Signature Date	Referred by:



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