

CORAL GEMSTONE



A Publication of the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club

JANUARY

HOT ROCKS, COOL GEMS & FABULOUS JEWELRY

2021

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ABOUT OUR CLUB

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

TAMPABAYROCKCLUB.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gerri Lundergan

*Puts on Red Sparklie Shoes,
clicks Heels together"*

*"I Want 2020 to be gone, I
want 2020 to be gone, I want
2020 to be gone..."*

*Opens eyes to see a Bright
New Year – 2021*

We may have had challenges presented to us all throughout 2020, but we as Floridians are a tough crowd. We know when to hunker down, put on a great hurricane party and how to stock up. When we finally got the clubhouse re-opened, those hurricane skills proved beneficial for us; we knew how to do so to stay safe and keep members involved.

As we move into 2021 here are a few goals we are working towards:

We will continue the clubhouse beautification program. At present we are seeking bids to get the outside of the clubhouse painted. This will be lovely with the new roof. Once the painting is finished, we would like to beautify our flower beds. Suggestions have been to put in butterfly plants to encourage them to come visit.

That leads to the possibility of

putting a privacy fence around the front yard and adding picnic tables for our members to enjoy lunch outside under the shade of our grand oaks, offer Rock Painting classes outside and additional small tables outside for Tailgating. Open air is one of the key elements of staying safe during the pandemic.

Several members have asked about resuming our tailgating on the first Saturday of the month. Thoughts and discussions from you – our members are encouraged.

Next on the agenda are our classes. Being able to offer multiple instructors in multiple areas is a way for members to share their talents, keep class sizes small and to bring in outside instructors also provides us with some new skill sets. The Board will be discussing this – so, again – if you have thoughts, ideas or would like to teach a class – contact a Board member.

At the last board meeting, it was brought up that Tony Williams had offered to take over Building and Grounds

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Chairman. We thank him for volunteering to oversee this.

I recently spent an afternoon visiting with Dan Arkwright and his granddaughter. Dan's father was one of our founding members. It is nice to hear the history of how this club began in the garage, grew to having member sale days, field trips to collect Tampa Bay agatized coral, shows and moving from one building to the next to finally end up in our current location. His granddaughter has the rock bug and he is busy teaching her for the next generation.

Any club is only as successful as its members

create it to be.

With that being said – I encourage all Members to add their talents, so this Club can continue to grow. Our mission is to bring in new members, start getting them trained and set them up to carry the ball forward.

The Board meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. If you have ideas or thoughts you would like to share, contact a Board member to let us know so we can add them to our Agenda.

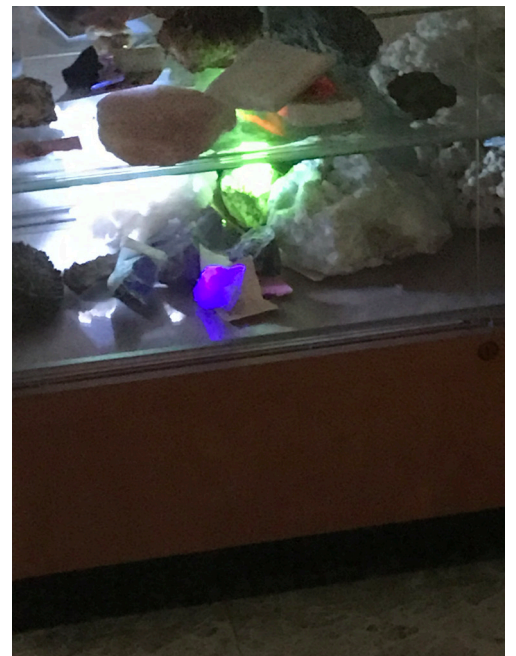
Gerri Lundergan
President

IRENE POTTER & ANTONIO RIVERA BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO OUR SPECIMEN DISPLAY CASES



DISPLAY CASES WITH FLUORESCENT MATERIAL

Thank you for your hard work!



STONE CANYON MOSS AGATE



MARKED SLAB OF
STONE CANYON
MOSS AGATE



PREFORM TO
MATCH UP WITH
CAB



TERODO PETRIFIED WOOD



LAPIDARY CORNER

with Gerri Lundergan



December has been a busy month for the shop.

We are happy to welcome Mark Burton & Tony Williams as additional Slab Staff. They have kept the saws running & getting us ready for our 2021

Slab Sales.

There is a nice selection of New slabs for members and we will be starting our online slab auctions again.

New members who joined at the show have filled Beginning Lapidary Classes learning to create their very own pretty shiny cabochons.

We started our new Cabochon 2 Class, and this proved to challenge our members who signed up. Here is what they had to look forward to:

- Refining the Angled Girdle with an even girdle all the way around in multiple shapes, doing Calibrated Cabochons, learning to do an epoxy fill for pits/vugs, Mexican Fire Opal & working without a dop stick.
- Cabochons 3 will teach you Doublets/Triplets, Basic Stabilizing, and Hearts.
- Cabochons 4 – Jade, Opals, Rutilated Quartz

Our January 16 Beginning Cabochon class is full, however we taking reservations for the next session.



During our winter break, Mark & I have been sorting every rock in the Rock Shed. They are now all sorted by color, type, size, grade and some very special treasures were unearthed.

All we will say is- be prepared for some AAA /high grade slabs to appear this year.

On to our tumbling: the board approved for us to



refurbish our tumbling machines and get them working. Since Mark says his middle name is "Tumbling," he has volunteered to head this up.

Soon we will have

some beautifully tumbled specimens available and some will be drilled then tumbled for candle holders, paper weights and other items to sell for the club.

Plus – if members have a stone they would like tumbled – we will be able to offer that.

We are excited for 2021.

Stay Safe, Wear Your Mask and Enjoy some Sun.

Contact Gerri Lundergan for info about Classes.
dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com or 813-943-5665
Call, text or smoke signal!

TBM&SC T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

Looking for an easy way to promote the club or searching for that perfect gift? Look no further than your Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club.



Sizes Available:

S, M, L, XL

XXL

XXXL

\$10

\$12

\$14

TBM&SC CLASS INSTRUCTORS

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BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

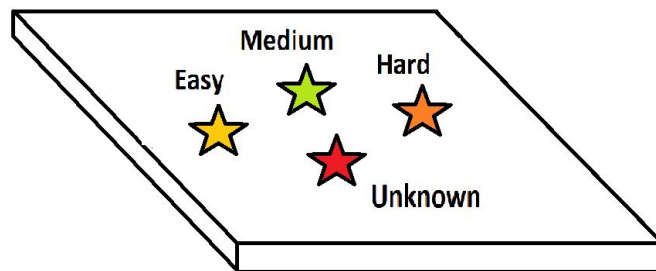
Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.



A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or model making outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS



There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the

unknowns with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books:
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)





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GEMSTONE FUN FACTS

- Sapphire is the only gemstone that comes in all colors of the rainbow.
- Citrines & Amethysts are made from the same mineral. The difference is only in the color. The interesting thing is that extensive heating changes the color from one to the other.
- The blue violet Tanzanite is known for its attractive shade, but most of you would be surprised to know that when it is extracted from the earth it is colorless. It is heat treated to get the beautiful blue violet tanzanite.
- The stunning Lolite gemstone is often confused with Tanzanite gemstone and Sapphire. It is a popular alternate for expensive Sapphire and Tanzanite. The only thing you need to take care is that never clean the gem with ultrasonic cleaners available in the market because it can destroy the sheen of the Lolite.
- The two very popular stones Emerald & Aquamarine are made from the same mineral.
- Black Onyx is not a natural gemstone but it is dyed black. It is the reason it should be cleaned very carefully using mild cleaners otherwise it will expose the brown and orange Sardonyx.
- The toughest gemstone is none other than a girl's best friend: Diamond. The softest is Amber. Another interesting thing about Amber- it got its unique name from the Greeks because when rubbed together it formed static electricity.
- In ancient times women used to wear opal beads in their hair to protect the color of the blonde hair.
- It is believed that a lot of Sapphire gemstones sunk with the iconic Titanic.
- Quartz and Tourmalines stones produce electrical charge when heated. The other interesting thing about tourmaline is that it attracts dust when exposed to hot lights.