

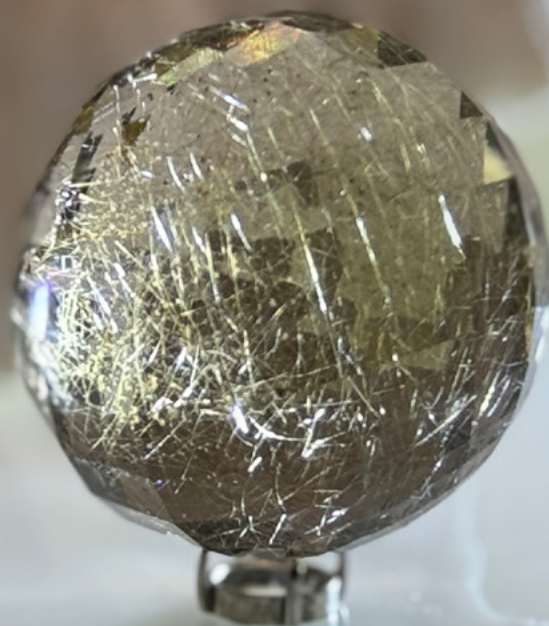
THE CORAL GEODE

August 2025



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***The magic
of faceting***

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Faceted rutilated quartz sphere by Lyra Solochek

TBMSC COMMITTEES

The Coral Geode newsletter:

Lyra Solochek, editor/designer

Show:

Greig Lundergan, Brenda
Gregory, Lyra Solochek

Membership:

Christy Gorrow, director

Social media

and advertising:

Lyra Solochek, Miles Bhav

Webmaster:

Lyra Solochek

Field trip:

Carlo Lucin, chair

Program coordinator:

Lyra Solochek

Sunshine:

Brenda Gregory

Education/youth:

Cindy Britten

Landscape: Brenda Gregory,
Carlo Lucin

Election Nomination:

Patti Kepple, Milind Bhav

ABOUT OUR CLUB



Address:

10207 Fisher Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33619



Email:

info@tampabayrockclub.
org



Phone:

(813) 684-2039



Website:

tampabayrockclub.org



Calendar

President's message

I hope everyone is having a great summer. To add to that, we are having a fabulous tailgate sale on Saturday, September 6, along with our quarterly members meeting. Lyra has some speakers lined up who will add to the enjoyment of the day. For more information, see page 4.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday and Sunday, August 30 and 31 to help prepare all the terrific things we will have for sale, also to do some landscape maintenance. More information on Page 4.

Please note: The Club will be CLOSED for classes and Open Shop on Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 1.

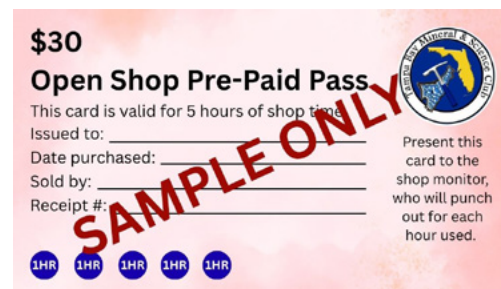
Your Board of Directors is working hard to design and plan for the upcoming improvements to the Club building. Stay tuned.

Finally, it's time to start thinking about our leadership elections coming up this fall. Positions open are Treasurer, Secretary, and three board seats. If you would like to be more involved in the club, contact our nomination committee members Patti Kepple (pattikepple@rocketmail.com) or Miles Bhav (mcbhav@hotmail.com) to express your interest.



Ellen Sisco
President

Introducing prepaid cards for frequent open-shoppers



Do you want to avoid the hassle of paying for open shop each time you visit? You can buy Prepaid Shop Cards (PSC) and use them as you visit the club. Write "PSC" under payment when you sign into Metal, Lapidary or Faceting Open Shops, then present your card to the monitor who will punch out the number of hours used.

The cards will come in three price points:

- 5 hours for \$30
- 10 hours for \$60
- 20+1 bonus for \$120.

These are approximately business card-size, easy to keep in your wallet. And there is no expiration date.

We will start using these cards in September. If you're interested, you can purchase them at the Quarterly Members Meeting on Sept. 6, or with a club officers any time after that.

These prepaid cards are for only Metal, Faceting and Lapidary.

You can still pay for Open Shop by cash, PayPal or credit card if you prefer.

Members' showcase

Let's celebrate your successes in the Members' Showcase! Send us a photo of your finished work, along with your name and some details about your piece to geodeeditor@gmail.com with subject line of "Showcase."

Work by Jim Kammel



Jim Kammel is a finalist in the VA Art Show. His entry — artisanal glass hand-cut cabochon wrapped in silver and gold-colored copper wire — will be going to the national art show.

Work by Kathy Reid and her sister, Janet Thurman



New members!

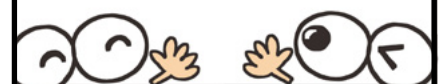
Alex Miller
James Frost
Kim Herd
Julia Berzoy
Philliip Burkley
Elise Pavelko
Christopher & Sherri Patterson
Lyda Brown
Fatimeh Barrie

Welcome back to:

Karissa Hendershot
Gladi King
Jan Eckle

REMINDER

Please make sure the club's emails — tampamineral@gmail.com and geodeeditor@gmail.com — are in your contact list to receive our newsletters and announcements. Newsletters are also online on our [website](http://www.coralgeode.com).



Next quarterly members meeting is Sept. 6

Our next General Members meeting is Saturday, Sept. 6. As usual, we'll begin the day with a **tailgate** from 9-11:30 a.m. The club still has lots of crafting materials for sale — beads, tools, findings and decorative plates. We also have some woodworking tools, rough, and faceted gemstones from a recent estate donation. Setup begins at 8:30 a.m.

We'll change the order of business and have a members meeting at 11:30 a.m., followed by a presentation from Michelle Wacker and Lyra Solochek with reports from their summer rockhounding adventures, including Arkansas quartz mines, Crater of Diamond, Montana sapphires and Idaho opals.

Please park in the grassy area in the back, or in the overflow parking across the street.



September presentation: Summer rockhounding adventures



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR A WORK WEEKEND

We won't have any classes or open shop on Aug. 30 for the Labor Day weekend. However, we will have work days, and we need volunteers!

Saturday, Aug. 30 — Prep work for the following weekend's tailgate. We will start at 9 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 31 — landscape maintenance, including mulching, pressure washing, trimming bushes, installing flood lights, etc. We will start at 8 a.m. to try to beat the heat.



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.

METAL CLAY

Guest instructor Michael J. Marx returns

Start making your plans! Metal Clay artist and instructor Michael Marx is coming back to TBMSC for two classes in January 2026 to share with us some of his signature styles in metal clay. The classes are:

January 9: "Turtle With Stone" — a three-dimensional turtle using about 15 grams of silver clay with minimal tools, props and textures, with a cold-set stone. (You supply the stone. Cabs will also be for sale at class.) This class is suitable for new and intermediate clay artists.

**Click here
to sign up**



- \$134 deposit to reserve seat on Signup Genius.
- \$211 Instructor fee and materials (includes 15g of clay) due the day of class.

January 10-11: "Awesome Owls" — a three-dimensional owl using 30-plus grams of silver clay with layered textures, coil work and multiple embellishments. This class is catered toward intermediate to advanced skill levels and require a full tool kit, textures and some props.

**Click here
to sign up**



- \$249 deposit to reserve a seat on Signup Genius
- \$406 Instructor fee and materials (includes 30g of clay) due the day of class

Minimum of seven students required for each class. Up to 15 maximum. If additional clay is required, the cost will be additional.

Morning snacks and lunch are provided.

Please make sure your memberships are current. Non-members may purchase a weekend pass for \$30.

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



REMINDER
No Open Shop on class days in Lapidary or Metal Shop. Please check the schedule.

INSTRUCTOR LIST

Linda Collins

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

Christy Gorrow

cgorrow@juno.com
Beading, Kumihimo, Viking Knit, Chaining and Intarsia

Jim Kammel

jmkammel@gmail.com
Faceting foreman and instructor

Mark Lauer

mdl3153@aol.com
Casting

Lisa Miller

meggymoo65@gmail.com
Silver

Lyra Solochek

lyrasolochek@gmail.com
Lapidary foreman and instructor, Metal Clay foreman and instructor

Jojo Torres

ceramics.johannatorres@gmail.com
Lapidary

Leah Welch

5324welch@gmail.com
Intarsia and Lapidary

TABLE CRAFTS



*Diving into
Peyote during
Table Crafts
class*



Beads, beads and more beads!

Table Crafts continues to meet on Wednesdays, but we've had a time change. We're trying out working from 1-4 p.m. This may change when school starts next week, because of grandparent duties.

This week we have started a new project "beading on a loom" or sometimes called loomwork. It's never too late to join in the club has two looms you could borrow.

The sessions are \$10 for 3 hours, plus any supplies you might want to buy. Help for instructions are available in other types of beading, kumihimo, Viking knit, and chaining.

Peyote Stitch

We've started an evening class, also on Wednesdays, that runs from 6-9 p.m. This class started several weeks ago to learn Peyote stitch with the intention of making a bracelet. They have completed the learning process and are working on their bracelet project. It's never too late to start in this class if it sounds like you'd like to join us. This class also costs \$10 for 3 hours.



Membership is required for both classes.

Contact Christy Gorrow at cgorrow@juno.com to join us or for more information

— Christy Gorrow

METAL SHOP



Another fresh start: Silver 1.1



Silversmithing 1.1: Introduction to Silversmithing

- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. August 23

The first class of the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course is a five-hour class where the student will create a textured sterling silver ring band.

The basics of metalsmithing will be covered, including shop etiquette and safety, how to use jewelry tools, soldering, finishing. Cost: \$78*

Materials and the use of tools are included in the cost. (*Materials cost is subject to change based on market prices.) Deposit of \$33 on Signup Genius required to reserve a seat. Pay the balance of \$45 to the instructor, cash or check. Students must bring own Optivisor. Closed-toed shoes required. No loose clothing; long hair must be tied back. Contact instructor Lisa Miller at meggymoo65@gmail.com or 772-631-1405 for more information about the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course.



Click here to sign up



Metal Open Shop Reservations

Members who completed the Beginning Silver course may use the Metal Shop during Open Shop hours. You must present your shop pass to the monitor when you sign in. If you do not have a card, ask the monitor or shop foreman for 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.**

COVER STORY

The magic of faceting

By Lyra Solochek

I recently attended the Franklin (N.C.) Faceting Symposium where fellow faceters gathered to share techniques, ideas and fellowship in a three-day event hosted by the United States Faceting Guild. Seminar topics included cutting soft stones, gemstone photography, fantasy cutting, metal and copper laps, machine maintenance, Gem Cut Studio and much more. This free event takes place in Franklin the last week of July every year. Pencil it in your calendar for 2026! It's well worth going.

Not familiar with faceting? Here's some information on a lapidary art form experiencing renewed interest across the country.

What is faceting?

Faceting refers to the art of cutting and shaping a gemstone with flat surfaces called "facets," and polishing each of these to maximize the light refraction and reflection within the stone to create brilliance, sparkle and visual appeal.



What materials can you cut?

You can facet just about anything, but to get the brilliance of a traditional gemstone, the stone should be translucent with minimal inclusions. Precious and semi-precious stones — garnets, aquamarines, emerald, rubies, sapphires, topaz and tourmaline — are commonly used in jewelry. Quartz varieties (amethyst, citrine, smoky) are also popular, and great for beginners as the cost of the rough is relatively low. Diamonds are also faceted, but require specialized

equipment to cut.

Glass is a great beginners' material. It comes in many colors and is fairly easy to facet. I keep jars of glass marbles around to use when testing new designs and to practice before cutting more expensive material.

Synthetics are lab-grown material that can have the same properties as real gemstones. Corundum, spinel, morganite, alexandrite and emeralds are some examples. Don't let the crazy chemistry-lab terminology of some materials scare you away — LuAg, YAg, etc. I love cutting synthetics, as you don't have to worry about imperfections and inclusions. The results are very satisfying. If you're cutting for a competition (USFG has annual contests), I recommend using synthetics.

Who should try it? How do I get started?

This form of lapidary art seems to appeal to technically minded people, as math and science come into play. But fear not. Even if you're not a "math person," you can still enjoy the process. There are designs available online to follow, and there's even a CAD program called Gem Cut Studio that could create or optimize a design. That said, faceting isn't for everyone. You must be patient and have an eye for details.

Faceting machines and laps can be pricey, so it might be challenging to get started. But you're in luck. Our Club has a fantastic faceting course, using four Ultra-Tec machines (gold standard for faceting machines). You may learn the process without having to pay thousands of dollars to get started.



Lyra's faceting arsenal

- Machine: Ultra-Tec V5
- Metal toppers from [Eisai Intelligence](#): 100, 320, 600
- Old copper lap with 320 diamond powder
- [Hyper Edge](#) 500
- [Lightning Lap](#)
 - D'Lite Diamond Resin polishing laps: 320, 600, 1200, 3000, 8K, 14K, 50K
- Natural Lap with diamond powder
- CeOx polishing lap
- A1 (Linde A) Alumina Lap
- NANO Diamond Films
- Gearloose (now sold by [Ultra-Tec](#))
 - Darkside: CeOx and Alumina
 - Zinc Plus: 8K
 - Batt : 60K
- Lindberg Cerium Oxide lap (sold at [Tom's Box of Rocks](#))
- [Woodlap](#): Walnut

Lyra's favorite websites

- [United States Faceting Guild](#)
- [Gem Cut Studio](#)
- [Gemology Project](#)
- [Ultra-Tec](#)
- [Faceters Paradise](#)
- [Gems of Science](#)
- [Tom's Box of Rocks](#)
- [Lightning Lap](#)
- [Woodlap LLC](#)
- [Eisai Intelligence](#)



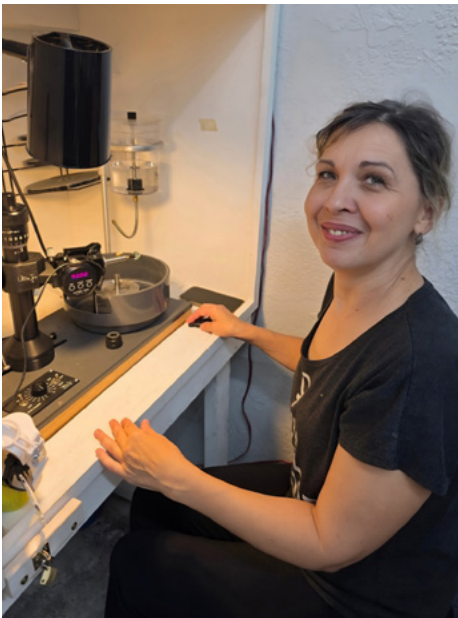
Faceted X Cube sphere by
Lyra Solochek

FACETING



Beginning faceting

Three new students started to learn the art of cutting and polishing gemstones during the Beginning Faceting class in July.



You, too, can learn to facet a beautiful gemstone

NEW: We're adding a weekday class in August!

Beginning Faceting

- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 9-10, 2025
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 19-20, 2025 **WEEKDAY!**
- 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 13-14, 2025

This is a two-day class on cutting faceted gemstones (transparent stones similar in appearance to diamonds). You will learn how to choose cutting material, dop the stone, cut and polish facets, transfer a stone, and proper operation and care of a faceting machine. Each student will complete one stone.



Click here to sign up

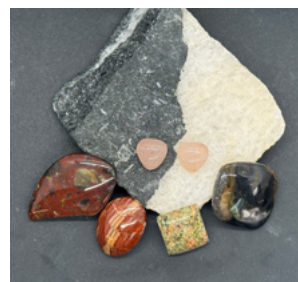


Cost is \$230 total, which includes materials, instructor fee, club shop time and use of machines. A deposit of \$130 is required to reserve a seat. The balance of \$100 should be paid directly to the instructor on the first day of class. Each student should have his/her own Optivisor to closely examine 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.

LAPIDARY

A start of a cabbing obsession

Students learned how to create domed shapes from stone slabs in the Beginning Cabochon class.



LAPIDARY

Introducing a new lapidary instructor

Jojo Torres was born in Honduras, grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and spent the majority of her life in Middle Tennessee, attending gem shows there. From a young age, she has been captivated by the mineral kingdom, with a particular fondness for the sparkle and shine of geodes, and natural formation of rocks. This fascination led her to pursue further knowledge and training in mineralogy and lapidary arts. Jojo holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics from Middle Tennessee State University.

For the past two years, Jojo has honed her skills in cabochon making, creating beautiful pieces and developing a deep understanding of the craft. Jojo is also a silversmith with several years of experience making jewelry and a lifelong passion for collecting handmade pieces. As a member of the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club since 2024, she is excited to share her knowledge and passion with fellow enthusiasts. Jojo will be leading the Beginning Cabochon class from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on August 23-24, perfect for anyone new to the club and the craft.



Beginning Cabochon class

- 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Aug. 23-24 (Jojo)
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sept. 13-14 (Lyra)
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Oct. 18-19 (Lyra)
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Nov. 15-16 (Lyra)

**Click here
to sign up**



This is a two-day workshop covering 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, a large towel and lunch.

Lapidary Open Shop Reservations

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 monitor or shop foreman for one. If you have previous cabbing experience, but did not take the Beginning Cabochon class, talk to the shop foreman for a Skills Check to get your shop pass. You must be a current member to use club facilities. Cost is \$6 per hour. **PayPal, credit card or exact change only.** Please pay the shop monitor or club staff.

**Click here
to sign up**



Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith

Drilling a stone

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, ease up on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you may chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.



"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



[vecteezy.com](https://www.vecteezy.com)

GENERAL CLUB HOURS

Tuesday: 4-8 p.m.

Thursday: By appointment

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

CLASSES, OPEN SHOP AND EVENTS

Saturday, August 9, 2025

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

Sunday, August 10, 2025

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, Day 2

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

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

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, August 16, 2025

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

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, Day 2
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, August 23, 2025

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Club hours
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. SILVER 1.1
10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1

Sunday, August 24, 2025

10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

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

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

**NO CLASSES OR OPEN SHOP FOR
LABOR DAY WEEKEND, AUGUST
30-SEPT. 1.**

Saturday, August 30, 2025

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteer day: tailgate prep

Sunday, August 31, 2025

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteer day:
Groundwork

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

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

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, September 6, 2025

**No Open Shops on Quarterly
Members Meeting days**

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Tailgate
11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Members
Meeting
12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Presentation

Monday, September 8, 2025

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

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

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

Saturday, September 13, 2025

9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. SILVER 1.2, Day 1

Sunday, September 14, 2025

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

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. SILVER 1.2, Day 2

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

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

Saturday, September 27, 2025

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

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

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

Saturday, October 4, 2025

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

Monday, October 6, 2025

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

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2025

Present: Ellen Sisco, Lyra Solochech, Christy Gorrow, Greig Lundergan, Carlo Lucin, Brenda Gregory, Patti Kepple
Call in: Kathy Reid, Linda Collins, Cindy Britten, Miles Bhavé
Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from July meeting

Motion to approve by Brenda Gregory. Seconded by Carlo Lucin. All approve.

2. Treasurer's Report – Linda Collins

Deposits are coming in for the November show. Also deposits from the June tailgate.

- No insurance payment this month. New policy starts September and October. Discount available if paid in full instead of in installments.
- Looked into investing \$10,000 into a CD or Money Market: Bank of America only allows \$20,000 and up: 5% for \$20K and up for 6 months. Linda will continue to research other banks and options.
- Move to approve Treasurer's Report by Christy Gorrow, seconded by Patti Kepple. All approve

3. Show updates

- Ellen Sisco, regarding Hart Gem Show. Spoke to Russell Hart. We had told him we needed something in writing within 30 days, but otherwise, we're backing away. He says he will pursue doing a show regardless of our involvement.
- Greig Lundergan, update on November show: About 10 booths left for vendors. Discussion on where to put the demo table and class table. Some prefer front near club table. Others prefer back. How to get more members to demo during show? Final payment to the fairgrounds due Aug. 15.

4. Old Business

- Construction update – Ellen Sisco. Got some information about removing concrete in the back since it currently is a hazard. Demolition estimate \$2,000. Idea proposed to put both handicap parking in the front instead of the back, and make the front entrance the ramped entrance. Will research more about ADA requirements.
- Evaluating various flooring alternatives. Received one estimate for an epoxy flooring, which will be \$6,500-\$7,000 per 1,000 square feet. Drawback: everything must be moved out, all old flooring must be removed. Luxury Vinyl Planks could be an alternative.
- Other renovation work: Itemized estimate received from a contractor. Ellen Sisco will email quote to board members.
- New fire extinguishers have been purchased for the metal clay area and the casting shed. They need to be mounted on the wall before we call fire marshal for annual inspection.

5. Department Updates

- Lapidary: New cutting laps purchased for slant lap, which has been fixed with a water system. Jojo Torres will start teaching. Her first Beginning Cabochon class is Aug. 23-24. We're also in talks to have Leah Welch teach weekday Beginning Cabochon and/or Intarsia classes.
- Casting: Last part arriving today. We should be able to do a trial run later this month, and classes likely will start in September. Exhaust fan can be installed in the window of the casting shed.
- Silver: Seems to be going smoothly with classes. Starting in October, Linda Collins plans to do a one-day make-and-take class – a neck cuff. Need more classes scheduled for Fundamentals of Silver course.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

- Faceting: Daytime classes are now available. So far, no takers. New cutting laps have been purchased to replace ones that are worn out.
- Table Crafts: Change daytime tablecrafts class to afternoon on Wednesdays. Evening classes will remain the same. Might start Saturday classes. New people welcome to join.

6. New Business

- Landscaping Committee needed to clean up the grounds. Brenda Gregory and Carlo Lucin volunteered for the committee. They welcome volunteers for a workday on Sunday, August 31.
- Exterior lighting needs replacing in the front. Back flood lights are not adequate, need to install another.
- Election committee: Election coming up this fall. Committee members needed to present a slate of candidates for positions that are up for election: three board members, treasurer and secretary. .
- Tailgate/quarterly meeting will be September 6. We will have another mega sale with remaining estate items, as well as some tools and decorative plates that were donated. We will need volunteers on August 30, and if needed August 31, to prepare. Presentation will be about summer rockhounding expeditions.
- The club is closed for Open Shop and classes on August 30 for the work day as well as Labor Day weekend.
- Open Shop cards — Brenda Gregory: We created business card-sized punch cards which members may purchase to be used for Open Shop. These have hourly increments of 5, 10 or 20-plus-one hours. These will be sold at the next members meeting.
- Meetup app — Brenda Gregory. We have signed up for the Meetup app to promote our classes and events.
- Next board meeting will be September 8.

7. Motion to adjourn by Linda Collins, seconded by Brenda Gregory. All approve.
Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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**ELECTED OFFICERS
AND BOARD MEMBERS**

Officers

Ellen Sisco, President**
Lyra Solochech, Vice President**
Linda Collins, Treasurer*
Cindy Britten, Secretary*

*Term expires in 2025

**Term expires in 2026

Board Members

Christy Gorrow*	Kathy Reid*
Greig Lundergan**	Patti Kepple**
Brenda Gregory*	Milind Bhave**
Carlo Lucin**	

SAVE THE DATES!



**66TH ANNUAL
FALL
GEM,
MINERAL,
& JEWELRY
SHOW**

NOV. 1-2, 2025
**Florida State Fairgrounds,
Tampa, Florida**

2025 July Treasurer's Report

	CHECKING	SAVINGS
Beginning Balance:	\$ 36,551.61	\$ 47,126.07
Ending Balance:	\$ 39,639.02	\$ 47,127.27
Income/Expenses:	<u><u>\$ (3,087.41)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1.20</u></u> Interest

Income: Paypal, Sign-up Genius, Weekly Club Income, Mmbrshp Renewal

Sign-up Genius	\$ 1,006.75
Deposits:	\$ 432.00
(Sil:27; Lap:20; TC:110; Tlgt/Slb:275)	
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 450.00
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 1,050.00
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 1,650.00
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 750.00
	<u><u>\$ 5,338.75</u></u>

Clubhouse Expenses - July 2025

\$ 2,251.34

Buildings/Grounds Expenses:

\$ 1,211.34

Insta Ink	8.59
T-Mobile Co. Phone	124.35
Teco	251.65
Company Utilities	26.75
Burd Lawn Services LLC(June/July)	\$ 800.00

Casting Expenses:

\$ 239.07

Otto Frei	\$ 239.07
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Lapidary Expenses:

\$ 327.36

Home Depot - Tampa	\$ 36.02
Hi-Tech Diamond Westmount	\$ 231.75
Lowes	\$ 36.66
Amazon Workplace	\$ 22.93

Operational Expenses:

\$ 241.82

Publix Suprmkts (tailgate)	\$ 28.47
Lyra Solochech - July Geode	\$ 150.00
Workshop Mountain, CA	\$ 9.99
Lyra Solochech - Paper Goods	\$ 53.36

Faceting Expenses:

\$ 231.75

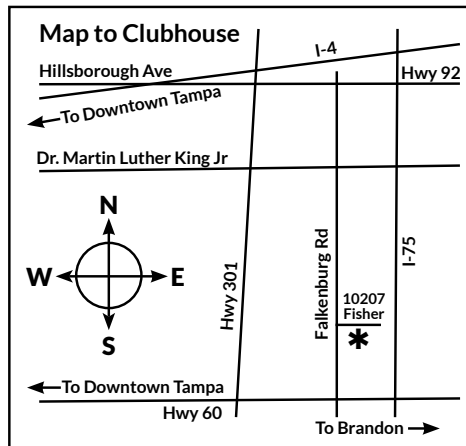
Hi-Tech Diamond Westmount	\$ 231.75
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Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club, Inc.

Membership Application

*Mandatory fields

Adult 1 Name*		Email*		Birth month	
Adult 2 Name*		Email*		Birth month	
Child (under 18)				Birth month	
Child (under 18)				Birth month	
Child (under 18)				Birth month	
Address					
City		State	ZIP	Phone*	
Preferred form of contact*				Are you willing to receive your monthly newsletter by Email?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Text <input type="checkbox"/> Phone				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
I hereby apply for membership for myself and others listed above, and agree not to hold any claims against the club.*				Referred by:	
Signature			Date		



Annual dues (January 1-December 31): \$50 individual, \$25 for each additional adult in the household, and \$5 for each child under 18.
Multi-year membership: \$180 individual for 4 years, \$90 per additional adult in household for 4 years
Lifetime membership: \$600 individual, \$300 per additional adult in household.

Make checks payable to "TBMSC" and mail with this application to 10207 Fisher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33619, or drop it off at the club house when you visit.

Clubhouse: 10207 Fisher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33619

Phone: (813) 684-2039

Website: www.tampabayrockclub.org

Regular membership meetings: 1st Saturday of Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.

Board meetings: 1st Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Monthly Newsletter: The Coral Geode

The Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club is a non-profit organization for the charitable and educational purposes of associating persons who are interested in natural science to work together as an organization in the gathering, displaying, and studying of rocks, shells, jewelry arts, and any kind of scientific objects of interest to the individual and the organization and to promote community interest in these subjects.

For Club Use

Cash or Check #	Amount	Receipt Done	Cards Done	Added to Mbr List	
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Revised 1/2025