

THE CORAL GEODE

February 2026



Casting some magic!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Members' Quarterly Meeting Day on March 7, with tailgate at 9 a.m., presentation at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at noon. See you there!

TBMSC COMMITTEES

The Coral Geode newsletter:

Lyra Solochek, editor/designer

Show:

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

Membership:

Christy Gorrow, director

Social media

and advertising:

Lyra Solochek, Miles Bhavé, Brenda Gregory

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

I hope everyone had a good January. Happy New Year to all of you.

Your Board of Directors continues to work hard to improve our Club. We have new classes upcoming, which I will let those responsible describe. We also have a new member who is an expert in mineralogy, who has started working with people who have minerals they need identified. More information on the specifics will be forthcoming.

As you may know, our Spring Show will be Friday and Saturday on April 3 and 4 this year, as the Fairgrounds will be closed on Easter. For more information, see below.

I would like to thank all the folks who have stepped up to work in various areas, especially those preparing the minerals for being reorganized. Also we have new members' participation in the Lapidary department, preparing to start cutting slabs and maintaining our saws.

Our new website will be ready soon, and you will be able to take advantage of the benefits it will provide. More information will be provided to you very soon!



Ellen Sisco
President

Our Spring Show is only two months away!

Applications for vendors are coming in for our 6th annual Spring Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. We have a bit of a challenge this year: Our usual first weekend of April show dates land on Easter weekend. The Florida State Fairgrounds is not open on Easter Sunday. So we had to adjust our schedule for our show to Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4. Move-in date will be Thursday, April 2.

We're asking in advance to adjust your schedules so you can volunteer, especially for the move-in/setup day and the first day of the show.

As expected, because of Easter, some regular vendors cannot attend. There will be some openings available for the show. So if you know of any jewelry artists or lapidarists who would be interested in having a booth at the show, please direct them to me and have them email tbmscshow@tampabay.com.

We are going to have a couple of work days to prepare for the show in March. Here are some things we need to accomplish before the show. We need to:

- improve our inventory to sell at our club booth.
- repair the sluice for the kids area.
- redo the labels for the specimens on the touch table.
- organize the bins so moving will be easier.

Work days will take place Saturday, March 14, and Saturday, March 28. We'll start at 9 a.m.

Thanks in advance and I hope to see you then!

– Lyra Solochek, Show Chair

ABOUT OUR CLUB



Address:

10207 Fisher Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33619



Email:

info@tampabayrockclub.org



Phone:

(813) 684-2039



Website:

tampabayrockclub.org



Calendar

WELCOME

New members!

Ruby Hall
Pam Sage
Gary Bujkowski
Liliana McCormick
Joshua & Mamara
Gardner
Steven Borrelli
Tessa Miller
Brian Mizzi

Remembering Col. Kym



MEMBERS' SHOWCASE



**Pendant by silver instructor
Lisa Miller.**

*Show off your work! Send in a
photo to geodeeditor@gmail.com,
subject line: Showcase*

We're saddened to report that Col. Juanita "Kym" Hoerr passed away this week after a monthlong illness. She was one of our longtime members and a generous contributor to all our activities..

Her friend and fellow club member, Melinda Riddle, shared her life story:

Kym was raised by her grandparents. They had to be very resourceful during the depression. She was born in 1929. In 1950 she joined the army. While in the army, she rose to the rank of Colonel. While stationed in Germany, she learned from master craftsmen to make jewelry and to cast. After leaving the Army, she came back to the states in New England and opened up a jewelry shop, which she ran for around 30 years. She has many degrees and certificates in a wide variety of areas. She took a class on home building. They built a small 200 square-foot home. She did the plumbing, the wiring, the cutting of the lumber and measuring. There is pretty much nothing that she couldn't do.

In 2000 she sold the jewelry shop and most, but not all of its contents and moved here to Florida. She took many different classes at William Holland Lapidary School in Georgia, and at other schools dealing with the lapidary arts. She was a past president of our club. She could slab, cab, work silver and gold, wire wrap, do chain mail and other chain patterns. One of her greatest gifts was wax carving, and then casting the wax. She taught wax carving and was working on wax casting, but we did not have the equipment at the time. She worked very hard to get the casting room equipped seven years ago. It was a great privilege to know her and to learn from her.

She also rescued and took in homeless cats.

The funeral for Colonel Juanita "Kym" Hoerr will be held at 10 a.m. February 12 at Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 38710 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL. All are welcome. She will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Help us make our mineral displays shine!

Brenda Gregory and Cindy Britten are currently inventorying our rock/mineral collection and giving our display cabinets a makeover. This is all part of preparations to clear clubhouse to install a new floor later this year.

Thank you to all of you that have brought in boxes for the storage of the rocks/minerals. We are still looking for:

Sturdy Boxes: Ideally 14x14x10 or smaller. Due to the mass of some of the specimens, large boxes can't be used.

Display Stands: Think creative: napkin rings, candle bases, or plant holders that we can upcycle! Actual display stands are welcome too!

Want to join the fun?

If you have any items to donate or want to spend a Tuesday evening (6–9 p.m.) helping us out, we'd love to see you there! Any help or donations are so appreciated!"

Thanks for being such a supportive community. We can't wait to see the finished display, and we'd love for you to be a part of it!



CLASS REFUND POLICY

- **Registration & Deposits:** Class signups are handled through SignUp Genius. A deposit is required to reserve a spot. Balance due day of class.
- **Refund Eligibility:** To receive a full refund of the deposit, participants must notify the Tampa Mineral and Science Club at least 14 days before the first day of class.
- **Rescheduling:** Students may choose to either receive a full refund or reschedule once to a different class date.
- **Emergency Cancellations:** In case of an emergency, a refund or rescheduling may be possible. Contact the club for details.
- **Processing Fee:** A 10% cancellation fee will be deducted from all refunds for processing.
- **Transfers:** Class registration can be transferred once to another class of equal value. To request a refund or transfer, email tampamineral@gmail.com with your name, and for transfers, include the title and date of the class you'd like to attend instead.
- **No-Shows:** No refunds or credits will be issued for no-call, no-show participants.
- **Club Cancellations:** If the club cancels a class, all registered participants will receive a full refund.

Don't forget to renew your membership

Please don't forget dues expired on December 31, 2025, so you need to renew to maintain your membership and access to classes and open shop time.

Check out all the new and wonderful classes we have scheduled and all the upgrades that are completed and still to come in the clubhouse. Surely, you want to be part of this amazing season of change and opportunity. So, this is a reminder that it's time to renew your membership. The cost has remained the same as last year: \$50 for the first adult and \$25 each for additional adults. Youth memberships are still \$5.

A few people have taken advantage of a 4-year membership for \$180 with the second adult being an additional \$90. And, the best offer for your dollar is a Lifetime membership for \$600. You can renew online at our website: tampabayrockclub.org

Or mail a check to TBMSC, 10207 Fisher Ave., Tampa, FL 33619. Or stop by the clubhouse on a Saturday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to have me process your membership in person. I can take cash, check or credit card.

Hope to see you soon,

– Christy Gorrow, Membership

GUEST INSTRUCTOR

Don't miss Chuck Bruce's classes! Sign up now.

Chuck Bruce from William Holland School of Lapidary Arts will be teaching three classes at the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club in February. See below for details:

February 19-20, 2026

Twisted Lapidary Workshop

This Class will focus on creating beyond cabochons. Students will be exposed to intarsia in a Zuni Sun Father Face. Students will acquire additional knowledge in the following:

- Doublets and triplets
- Stone cones
- Drilling into stones using diamond core bits
- Fit concave shaped stones with convex shaped stones
- Chip inlay into stones
- Make alternate cabs using dried natural items (butterfly or dragonfly wings etc. (using optical glues)
- Stabilization, custom tinting and a little hand carving

Fee includes projects for most techniques and will have extra kits for sale. Students will need to bring varied slabs of different hardness for projects.

Cost: \$484

Click here to sign up



February 21, 2026

Sterling Inlay Ring Workshop

This one-day class is a ring fabrication workshop, fabricating and completing two sterling silver rings. These ring bands can be used for the Inlay Work Shop the following day.

Note: If you complete your ring bands early and are interested, you have the opportunity to purchase the chip Opals and learn the inlay process for your Sterling Silver bands.

Cost: \$ 332

Click here to sign up



February 22, 2026

Opal Inlay Ring Workshop

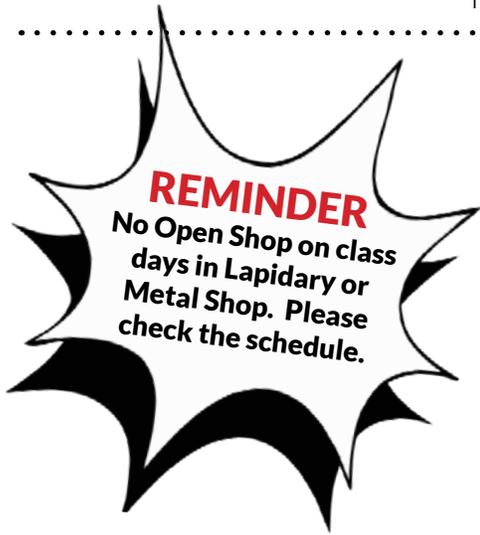
In this class students will learn the process of inlaying synthetic opal chips in a stainless steel channel ring. After selecting your ring size, you will be given enough synthetic opals to complete a ring. Students will be taught glue and stone application, chip selection and insertion, then final grinding and polishing. Next, students will be taught to inlay real opal chips into stainless steel channel ring using same method. Everything needed to complete two rings will be provided. (2 Stainless Steel rings, 1 packet of synthetic opals and 1 packet of round opals to use in these channel rings)

Note: if you attended the Sterling Ring Class the previous day you could use those fabricated rings for this class.

Cost: \$ 332

Click here to sign up





INSTRUCTOR LIST

Linda Collins

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

Christy Gorrow

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Jojo Torres

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Lapidary

Leah Welch

rockabundance74@gmail.com
Intarsia and Lapidary instructor and Interim Lapidary foreman

FACETING

Beginning Faceting

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 7-8 (FULL)
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 21-22 (FULL)
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 18-19

This is a two-day class on cutting faceted gemstones (transparent stones similar in appearance to diamonds). You will learn how to choose cutting material, dop the stone, cut and polish facets, transfer a stone, and proper operation and care of a faceting machine. Each student will complete one stone. Cost is \$230 total, which includes materials, instructor fee, club shop time and use of machines. A deposit of \$130 is required to reserve a seat. The balance of \$100 should be paid directly to the instructor on the first day of class.

Each student should have his/her own Optivisor to closely examine the stone during the cutting process. These are available on Amazon or Harbor Freight. You must wear closed-toed shoes. No loose clothing, and long hair must be tied back.



[Click here to sign up](#)



LAPIDARY



January Lapidary students



Beginning Cabochon class

- 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Feb. 17, 18, 24, 25
- 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. March 3, 4, 10, 11
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. March 21-22
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. April 18-19

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.

[Click here to sign up](#)



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, Leah Welch, for a Skills Check to get your shop pass. She may be reached at rockabundance74@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.

[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 foreman 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 with no sharp edges before going to the resin wheels 280 and up. This is to prevent them from getting gouged and ruined.
- Make sure you work the cabs through the grits in sequence. Finish one level completely before moving on.
- 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. When in doubt, ask the monitor or instructor.
- The diamond grinding wheels are not to be used for large rock; 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 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.

Spring cleaning!

Many thanks to Lapidary Shop foreman Leah Welch and club secretary Cindy Britten who took some time to straighten and clean our Lapidary shop.



METAL CLAY

March 21

Intro to Metal Clay



9 a.m.-3 p.m. March 21

9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 25

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!

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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

Instructor and Materials Fee: \$160

TBMSF Fee: \$40

For questions or more information, contact instructor Lyra Solocheck at lyrasolocheck@gmail.com.

TABLE CRAFTS

New time for Wednesday afternoon session

Table Crafts will be slightly adjusting its Wednesday afternoon time to noon to 3 p.m. starting February 11.

Also, the Wednesday evening table crafts group will continue meeting from 6 to 9 p.m..

Table crafts includes all types of beading (stringing, bead weaving, and Kumihimo), as well as chaining and viking knit. Come in and see the examples we have on display.

– Christy Gorrow

Invitation from SGAMS

Print this out or snap a photo with your phone to get a \$1 off

SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

55th ANNUAL SHOW
Mar 6-8 2026

NEW LOCATION ! Polish Center of John Paul II
1521 N Saturn Ave
Clearwater, FL

Fossils Geodes Gems Minerals Jewelry

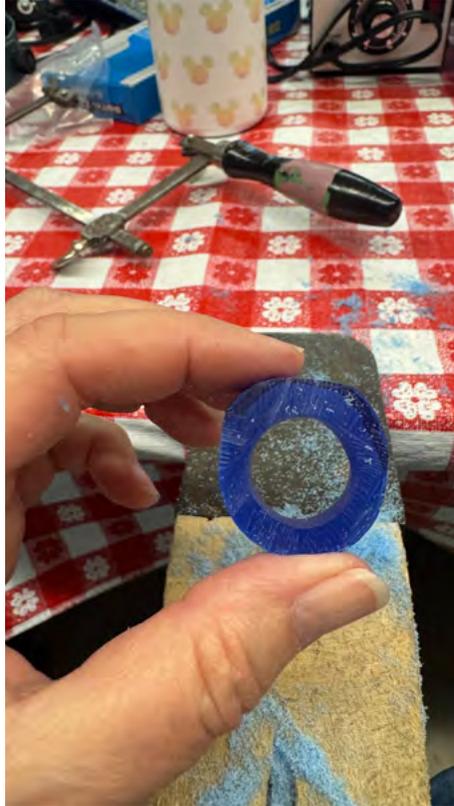
Admission Donation Adults-\$10, Students \$6
Children under 12-free

Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

\$1 OFF with this Ad

CASTING

January casting class



Intro to wax carving and silver centrifuge casting

February 14-15 (Full)

March 28-29 (Full)

April 25-26 (2 seats available)

This two-day class begins on the morning of Day 1 with an introduction to wax carving, where

Click here to sign up



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 SHOP

Silversmithing 1.1: Introduction to Silversmithing

- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 28 (Full)

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: \$95* 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 \$62 to the instructor. Students must bring own Optivisor. Closed-toed shoes required. No loose clothing; long hair must be



**Click here
to sign up**



tyed back. Contact instructor Lisa Miller at meggymoo65@gmail.com or 772-631-1405 for more information about the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course.

Silversmithing 1.3 class: Pendant

In the third and final class of the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course, the student will create a sterling silver pendant featuring a round or oval cabochon. This class consists of two four-hour classes.

**Click here
to sign up**



- 9 a.m.-1 p.m. March 14 and June 21 (Full)

Cost: \$155* Materials and the use of tools are included in the cost. (*Materials cost is subject to change based on market prices.)

Deposit of \$52 on Signup Genius required to save a seat.

Prerequisite: Must have completed Silver 1.1 and 1.2.

Students must bring own Optivisor. Closed-toed shoes required.

Contact instructor Lisa Miller at meggymoo65@gmail.com or 772-631-1405 for more information about the Fundamentals of Silversmithing Course.

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:

- Noon-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.

Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith



Foredom maintenance

If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of instructions on how to do everything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. Go to www.foredom.net/product-category/maintenance-and-replacement-parts/. Any repair parts needed are available from the Foredom site or from many jewelry supply catalogs. If you have any question about their products, a phone call or an email will get quick answers.

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

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

Each technique is explained in detail with:

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

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

Copies are available now at <https://amazon.com/dp/BOBPGPTBNH/>



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

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



CALENDAR

GENERAL CLUB HOURS

Tuesday: 4-8 p.m.
 Thursday: By appointment
 Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



vecteezy.com

CLASSES, OPEN SHOP AND EVENTS

Saturday, February 7, 2026
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, February 8, 2026
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, Day 2
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, February 14, 2026
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 1
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Sunday, February 15, 2026
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 2

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, February 18, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Thursday, February 19, 2026
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CHUCK BRUCE:
 ZUNI MASKS, Day 1

Friday, February 20, 2026
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CHUCK BRUCE:
 ZUNI MASKS, Day 2

Saturday, February 21, 2026
 No Open Shops
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CHUCK BRUCE:
 SILVER INLAY RING

Sunday, February 22, 2026
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Chuck Bruce: Opal
 inlay

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, February 28, 2026
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. SILVER 1.1

Monday, March 2, 2026
 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. TBMS Board
 Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, March 7, 2026
 No Open Shops
 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Tailgate
 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Presentation
 12 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Quarterly
 Members Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, March 14, 2026
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. SILVER 1.3, Day 1
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Show prep work day

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, March 21, 2026
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. BEGINNING
 CABOCHON, Day 1
 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. INTRO TO METAL
 CLAY
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. SILVER 1.3, Day 2

Sunday, March 22, 2026
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 2
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. BEGINNING
 CABOCHON, Day 2

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, March 28, 2026
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 1
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Show prep work day

Sunday, March 29, 2026
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. CASTING, Day 2

Tuesday, March 31, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, April 1, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

**Thursday, April 2, 2026 - Sunday, April
 5, 2026**
 Club closed for Spring Show

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, April 11, 2026
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Monday, April 13, 2026
 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. TBMS Board
 Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Metal Open Shop
 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Saturday, April 18, 2026
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. BEGINNING
 CABOCHON, Day 1
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, April 19, 2026
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Faceting Open Shop
 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. BEGINNING
 CABOCHON, Day 2

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026

Call to Order: 6:33 p.m. by Ellen Sisco

Attendance: Present: Ellen Sisco, Christy Gorrow, Linda Collins, Kathy Reid, Cindy Britten, Brenda Gregory, Carlo Lucin. Via phone: Lyra Solochek

1. Approval of last month's minutes: Cindy motioned to approve; Kathy Reid seconded. The motion was approved by all.
2. Treasurer's Report (Linda Collins)
 - Fraud Alert: Possible fraud on one of club's cards; Linda will discuss this with the bank.
 - Budget: Each department (including Table Crafts) has a budget of \$2,000.
3. Show Update (Lyra Solochek)
 - New vendor sign-up is active; vendors are submitting contracts and tax certificates.
 - Show preparation days are scheduled for March 14 and 28.
 - Show dates are Friday-Saturday April 3-4, with set-up on Thursday, April 2. No show on Easter Sunday.
4. Old Business & Building Update (Ellen Sisco)
 - Sheds: The big shed is arriving within two weeks; some shelving available.
 - Casting Shop: A fan still needs installation; insulation is not required.
 - Construction: Ellen will provide a final price for finishing the Lapidary shop and lighting improvements
 - Flooring Prep: Rock packing and inventory is being handled by Brenda Gregory and Cindy Britten
 - Lapidary Shop: Winter cleaning and organization being carried out by Cindy Britten and Leah Welch. Preparing for Shop Inventory.
5. Department Updates
 - Lapidary: Sintered wheels will slowly replace hard wheels, starting with the 80 grit. Switchover will be in phases as wheels wear out.
 - Casting: Class prices will increase by \$20 due to silver price hikes.
 - Silver: Classes with Lisa Miller are performing well (5 students). Chuck's class needs promotion. Hand tools are being replaced at a discount through Brenda.
 - Open Metal Shop hours: Tuesday (12-6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. – 1 p.m.). Linda is available for individual appointments.
 - Faceting: Jim had several open shop sign-ups so far.
 - Table Crafts: Linda is setting up wire wrapping. Christy reported poor attendance for evening classes, which may be dropped.
 - Metal Clay: Michael Marx's classes were successful; future classes and online options are possible. Lyra will start beginner classes next month.
6. New Business
 - No-Show Policy: Lyra Solochek motioned for instructors to still be paid for no-call, no-show students (deposits forfeited unless emergency). Linda Collins seconded. Approved by all.
 - Outreach: Brenda Gregory is connecting with the curator of the Museum of Archaeology, Paleontology and Science.
 - Rock Swap: Cindy Britten proposed weekend social activities.
 - Robert is offering mineral identification services for a \$50 club donation.
 - Staff Day: Ellen Sisco suggested "Staff Day in the Shops" for 2 or more people. All agreed.

Adjournment: Christy Gorrow motioned to adjourn; Brenda Gregory seconded. All approved at 8:03 p.m.

2026 January Treasurer's Report

	CHECKING	SAVINGS
Beginning Balance:	\$ 53,415.55	\$ 47,133.19
Ending Balance:	\$ 52,734.53	\$ 47,134.39
Income/Expenses:	<u>\$ 681.02</u>	<u>\$ 1.20</u>

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

Sign-up Genius	\$ 3,585.45
Paypal Transfer	-
Stripe	\$ 8,144.91
Deposit	\$ 3,549.50
	<u>\$ 15,279.86</u>

Clubhouse Expenses - January 2026 **\$ 15,960.88**

<i>Buildings/Grounds Expenses:</i>	<u>\$ 689.81</u>
T-Mobile Co. Phone	\$ 124.35
Teco-Nov/Dec	\$ 91.71
Company Utilities	\$ 25.00
Daniel Burd - Lawn Care	
ADT Security	
Carlo Lucin	\$ 448.75
<i>Operational Expenses:</i>	<u>\$ 2,878.70</u>
Auto Owners Insurance	-
Manatee Insurance	\$ 1,820.00
Philadelphia Indemnity-Accident	-
Lyra Solochek - chgs (possible Fraud)-reported	\$ 378.00
PP Burnette Refund	\$ 98.00
OBHAUS - Plant City - Miles	\$ 120.00
Amazon - Marketplace - workspce	\$ 58.44
Publix - Co. Functions - M Marx	\$ 243.59
Go Daddy	\$ 44.38
Google Wrkspce	\$ 9.99
Sign up genius	\$ 43.10
Insta Ink	\$ 8.59
Staples - Office Supplies	\$ 9.66
Facebook	\$ 44.95

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Amazon Mktple - station sys	270.23
Mitchell Jewelry - upgrade Equip	1450.00
Metal Clay Expenses:	\$ 5,262.32
Lyra Solocheck - Met. Clay Supplies	267.50
Michael Marx - Instructor	4994.82
Beading Table Crafts Expenses:	\$ -
Jennifer Wiles Studio	
Casting Expenses:	\$ 249.82
Mark Lauer	249.82

ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

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

Board Members

Christy Gorrow* Kathy Reid*
 Brenda Gregory* Patti Kepple**
 Carlo Lucin** Milind Bhavé**

*Term expires in 2027
 **Term expires in 2026

Prepaid Shop Card still available

Buy one — or more — of the Pre-paid Shop Cards (PSC) and use them as you visit the club for Open Shop. 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.

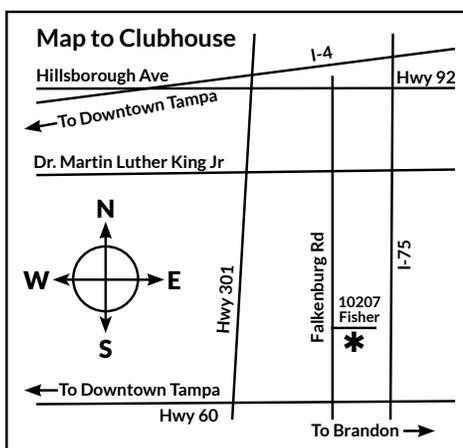
If you’re interested, you can purchase them from club officers. These prepaid cards are for only Metal, Faceting and Lapidary. You can still pay for Open Shop by cash, PayPal or credit card if you prefer.



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	