



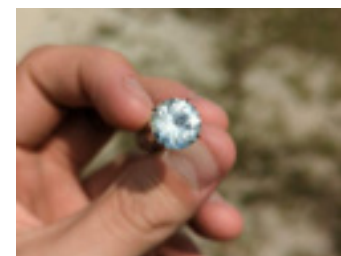
DECEMBER 2023

# THE CORAL GEODE

## IN THIS ISSUE

- President's message, [1](#)
- New members, [2](#)
- Election results, [2](#)
- Construction update, [3](#)
- Instructor list, [3](#)
- Holiday festivities, [4](#)
- Guest workshop, [5](#)
- Lapidary, [6](#)
- Faceting, [7](#)
- Table crafts, [7](#)
- Calendar, [8](#)
- Bench tips, [9](#)
- Members meeting minutes, [10](#)
- Board minutes, [11](#)

## LOOKING BACK AT 2023



## ABOUT OUR CLUB



**Address:**  
10207 Fisher Ave.,  
Tampa, FL 33619



**Email:**  
[info@tampabayrockclub.org](mailto:info@tampabayrockclub.org)



**Phone:**  
(813) 684-2039



**Website:**  
[tampabayrockclub.org](http://tampabayrockclub.org)



[Calendar](#)

## President's message



**Peter Favaro**

Thank you all for sticking with us. We've had a challenging year. Things have been happening all over the club in all departments with upgrades where they were needed and all sorts of modifications to our building to make it more accessible to all members. New equipment in almost every department has helped keep us running smoothly and our members happy.

We have been hard at work as a board trying to come up with new classes for our members. We have a silver/lapidary guest instructor – Chuck Bruce – who will be coming in February from Indiana. He is a regular instructor at William Holland. His first class – silver inlay – is already full, but there will be a second class –

Continued on next page

**The club will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 17 through Jan. 5, and will reopen Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024.**



Continued from previous page

knife inlay — offered, so please read through this month's newsletter for more information. We are trying to have more guest instructors throughout the year to help broaden our offerings, and we are also looking into having presentations on various topics.

I am asking for interested parties that have ever thought about teaching or have wanted to teach, please reach out to us. If you have a specialty that you feel would be great knowledge to pass down, please put together a proposal that includes a syllabus of what you are wanting to teach along with any other important things we need to know. We have great resources among our membership with their various areas of expertise. The more we share that knowledge, the more we are able to pass it down to future generations. My goal and vision as president is to help safeguard our art, for that is what we are — artists. With your help we can accomplish this and help make us a beacon for our arts.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of you for everything you have done. For those that we have lost this year we miss you and will never forget all that you had done for us. For our future members, thank you for joining us on your journey into this wonderful creative world.

## ELECTION RESULTS

Thanks to members who submitted your vote for the 2024 leadership. The slate of candidates for 2024 was approved unanimously.

Winners are:

Vice President (1 year) : Lyra Solochek

Treasurer: Linda Collins

Secretary: Katie Day

Board members: Christy Gorrow, Greig Lundergan and Rick Jackson



WELCOME

**New members!**

Denitsa Dpbreva  
Cheryl Shaaf  
Justin Giguere

## Time to renew your club membership!

It's that time of year again. All memberships end on December 31. Check your membership card and if it has 2023 on it, it's time to renew!

Memberships are a great gift idea for a family member or friend. The 2024 dues are \$40 for an adult, \$20 for additional adults in same household, and \$5 for youth under 18. There are multi-year memberships available to take advantage of some savings.

You can go online to [tamparockclub.org](http://tamparockclub.org). On the header, click on Membership and it will let you download an application and give you the address if you want to mail in a check or below the mailing address you'll find "Don't want to download the form, and want to do it all online? Just click here."

Looking forward to hearing from you.

— Christy Gorrow, Membership



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

# Concrete pouring is done!



The weather finally cooperated and concrete has been poured for leveling the floor of the clubhouse and paving two handicap parking spaces by the back door. Now, we just wait for everything to cure. Please stay off the new concrete for awhile, and use the front door when you visit the club.



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## TBMSC INSTRUCTOR LIST

### **Tony Carrino**

tcarrino@verizon.net  
Silver, Metal Shop Foreman

### **Linda Collins**

LCollins1953@gmail.com  
Cold Connections, Wire Wrapping,  
Lapidary

### **Tom Dershem**

rocky1375@verizon.net  
Faceting, Faceting Shop Foreman

### **Peter Favaro**

hawk\_doc@hotmail.com  
Faceting, Lapidary, Lapidary Shop  
Foreman

### **Christy Gorrow**

cgorrow@juno.com  
Beading, Kumihimo, Viking Knit

### **Jim Kammel**

jmkammel@gmail.com  
Faceting

### **Barbara Rivolta**

barbara.rivolta@gmail.com  
Metal Clay, Fused Glass, Enameling

### **Lyra Solochek**

lyrasolochek@gmail.com  
Lapidary



### HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

# Great food, great company!

The Holiday Potluck was a great success. We had some delicious food, including Christy's turkey, Peter's chopped pork and sweet potato pie, Megan's seafood mac and cheese, and so much more. Thanks to everyone who brought in something to share. We also had some great raffle giveaways, including some wire-wrapped cabochon necklaces, slabs, faceting rough, cabochons, specimens and some memberships, including one for Lifetime!



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!





GUEST INSTRUCTOR: SILVER AND LAPIDARY

# Inlay workshops with Chuck Bruce

We are thrilled to announce that guest instructor Chuck Bruce is coming to the club to teach two inlay workshops in February.

Chuck is a well known artist who teaches at various schools across the country, including William Holland Lapidary School in Georgia. He has been making jewelry for 19 years, with extensive knowledge in cabochons, chain making, chasing & repousse, cold connections, design, fold forming, gold, granulation, lost wax casting, mokume-gane, opals, inlay, intarsia, silver, spool knitting & steel tools.



## Silver inlay

The first class is Silver Inlay from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 17-18, where you will focus on silver inlay cuffs. Students should bring or purchase 2 to 3 slabs of rock that are of similar hardness that can be combined for inlay. Patterned stones do well with plain colored stone. Students can also inlay with wood, fossil ivory, bone, Fordite. Experience in silver and lapidary are required to take this class.

**COST:** \$410, which includes workshop fee, club shop time, student kit, lunch, instructor expenses and registration fee.

The Silver Inlay class is already full. But if you'd like to be on a wait list in case of a cancellation, please contact Kathy Reid at [kathyjoreid@verizon.net](mailto:kathyjoreid@verizon.net).



## Knife inlay

The second class is Knife Inlay from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 19-20. Students will work on two Texas Toothpick knives. Students need to bring two slabs of rock or several pieces of tumbled rock to inlay. Bring something that calls you or that's exceptional; it makes the knife. Patterned stones do very well with plain colored stones. There will be rock available but most people usually have something that is special already.

**COST:** \$410, which includes workshop fee, club shop time, student kit, lunch, instructor expenses and registration fee. Chuck will have extra knives (blanks) for sale.

If club capping stations are full, we can offer two additional seats using Chuck's capping machines. These seats will be an additional \$50 to use his equipment.

Register online on Signup Genius at [tinyurl.com/knifecclass](https://tinyurl.com/knifecclass).



## LAPIDARY



## Opals anyone?

Things are going well in Lapidary. We're making small improvements here and there, and all sorts of new things are on the horizon.

I am still working on the dates but near the end of January we will be offering an opal class. You must be an experienced cabber to take this class, due to the nature of opals and how finicky they tend to be. Students will need a minimum of six months experience cutting cabs. I know this seems like an odd need, but without this experience your end results will be very subpar and we are trying to ensure that you have a good outcome. The opal class will be \$250. This covers the class, materials, shop time, and instructor fee. Keep a eye out on Signup Genius and through the website for the class dates and time.

— Peter Favaro, Lapidary Foreman

## Beginning Cabochon classes

Here are the dates for the first quarter of 2024:

January 13-14  
February 10-11  
March 23-24

These are two-day workshops covering the basics of turning slabs of rocks into polished pieces. Go to the Signup Genius link (see article on the right) to reserve your spot. The cost of the class is \$210, which includes materials, instructor fees and shop time. A deposit of \$110 is required to save a spot, and the balance of \$100 should be paid to the instructor the day of the class. Bring a waterproof apron, an Optivisor, a large towel and lunch.



## Reserve your seat using Signup Genius

We've officially launched class signups on Signup Genius for Lapidary classes and Open Shop. Click the links below to go to the signup pages.

[Beginning Cabochon or tinyurl.com/cabochon1](https://tinyurl.com/cabochon1)

[Open Shop or tinyurl.com/openshop1](https://tinyurl.com/openshop1)

**Find the class or open shop you'd like to sign up for. Click on Sign Up for that date, then click on Save & Continue at the bottom.**

- On the next page, fill in your name, email and phone number. If you've created a Signup Genius account, you may log in instead.
- For classes, a deposit is required to reserve a seat. Click on **Sign Up & Pay Now** to enter your payment information.
- For Open Shop, click on **Sign Up Now**. Please pay the monitor directly with cash, check or PayPal on the day of the Open Shop.
- If you need help signing up, contact Peter Favaro at [hawk\\_doc@hotmail.com](mailto:hawk_doc@hotmail.com) or Lyra Solochek at [lyrasolochek@gmail.com](mailto:lyrasolochek@gmail.com).

## FACETING

# New format for Beginning Faceting class

Our faceting foreman Tom Dershem is back! Feel free to reach out to him to sign up for faceting classes. His email is [rocky1375@verizon.net](mailto:rocky1375@verizon.net).

We have four new Ultra-Tec faceting machines now, so try them out.

We are modifying the Beginning Faceting class to streamline it and make it faster to learn the basics, but still have a good result in the end. This will help you dip your toes into faceting to see if you like it enough to learn more. This new format will be \$200. (Other classes are \$270.) Materials, shop time and instructor fee are all included in this price.



The design we are using was used during the Franklin Faceting Frolic Symposium. Two of our instructors attended the Frolic and were very impressed with the way the design cut and felt it would be easier for beginners to understand the concept of faceting.

So if you are interested, please to reach out and get signed up, we cant wait to hear from you.

— Peter Favaro

## METAL

# Want to learn how to create silver jewelry?

In the Beginning Silver nine-week course, you will learn how to saw, manipulate and solder silver into your own pieces of wearable art. For more information, email instructor Tony Carrino at [tcarrino@verizon.net](mailto:tcarrino@verizon.net).



## TABLE CRAFTS



# Wire Wrapping II classes

Your class will include:

- A three-hour class (taking home at least two completed projects)
- Instructor fee
- Three packages of different shaped wire
- And a selection of cabochons for your project

### DATES:

- January 10 (Wednesday) Noon to 3 p.m.
- January 11 (Thursday) 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- January 13 (Saturday) 9 a.m. – noon

**COST:** \$55.00

**CONTACT:** Linda Collins, text or call 508-944-3399, or email [LCollins1953@gmail.com](mailto:LCollins1953@gmail.com).

# Table crafts open shop

Table Crafts will continue to meet on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please join us if you're interested in learning:

- basic beading (peyote and/or brick stitch)
- kumihimo (a really neat form of Japanese braiding with or without beads, makes very nice necklaces and bracelets)
- Viking knit (a technique similar to spool knitting with wire, makes great necklace for your pendants)





## CALENDAR

### GENERAL CLUB HOURS

Tuesday: 3-8 p.m.  
Thursday: 9-1 p.m.  
Saturday: 9-1 p.m.



### CLASSES, OPEN SHOP AND EVENTS (Classes and events are in ALL CAPS)

**Saturday December 9, 2023**  
9am BEGINNING CABOCHON,  
Day 1  
9am Club hours  
9am Lapidary Open Shop  
10am CHRISTMAS EARRINGS

**Sun December 10, 2023**  
9am BEGINNING CABOCHON,  
Day 2

**Tuesday December 12, 2023**  
3pm Club hours  
4pm Lapidary Open Shop

**Thursday December 14, 2023**  
9am Club hours  
10am Silver Open Shop

**Saturday December 16, 2023**  
9am Club hours  
9am Lapidary Open Shop

**The club is closed for the holidays  
Saturday, December 17  
through Friday, January 5**

**Saturday January 6, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
9am Lapidary Open Shop

**Monday January 8, 2024**  
6:30pm TBMSC Board Meeting

**Tuesday January 9, 2024**  
3pm Club hours  
4pm Lapidary Open Shop

**Thursday January 11, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
10am Silver Open Shop

**Saturday January 13, 2024**  
9am BEGINNING CABOCHON 1,  
Day 1  
9am Club hours

**Sunday January 14, 2024**  
9am BEGINNING CABOCHON 1,  
Day 2

**Tuesday January 16, 2024**  
3pm Club hours  
4pm Lapidary Open Shop

**Thursday January 18, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
10am Silver Open Shop

**Saturday January 20, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
9am Lapidary Open Shop

**Tuesday January 23, 2024**  
3pm Club hours  
4pm Lapidary Open Shop

**Thursday January 25, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
10am Silver Open Shop

**Saturday January 27, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
9am Lapidary Open Shop

**Tuesday January 30, 2024**  
3pm Club hours  
4pm Lapidary Open Shop

**Thursday February 1, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
10am Silver Open Shop

**Saturday February 3, 2024**  
9am Club hours  
9am Lapidary Open Shop

**Monday February 5, 2024**  
6:30pm TBMSC Board Meeting



# Brad's Bench Tips

By Bradford Smith

## Transparent cabs

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

My solution is one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish. Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may even want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.



## “24 Easy Metal Textures” - With No Rolling Mill Required

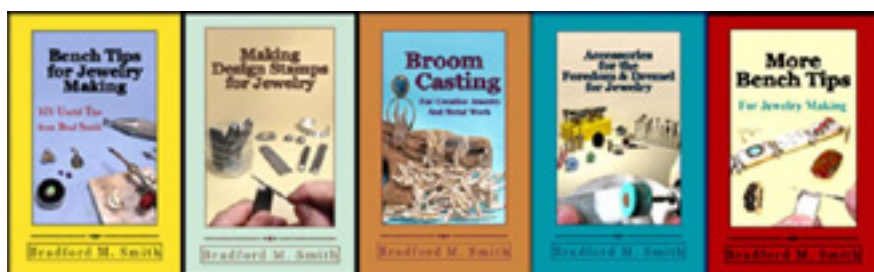
It details 24 different techniques for adding texture to your jewelry and metal work without the need for heavy equipment like a mill. The techniques make use of more common tools and materials around the shop — like hammers, stamps, punches, and tool bits for the Dremel or Foredom.

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](https://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

# TBMSC General Membership Minutes

December 2, 2023

Call to order: 11:02 a.m.

- No treasury reports this meeting because of technical difficulties.
- We still don't have the final show numbers because we have not gotten the final bill from the State Fairgrounds.
- Greig Lundergan and Peter Favaro estimate that our profit was around \$9,000.
- The kids section, usually a big attraction, was slower than usual during the show.
- Vendors stated that they did alright based on the feedback received.
- The club will be getting money back from the State Fairgrounds because the facility made mistakes during the show.
- We're considering advertising for the April show much earlier than we did for the November show.
- Signup Genius is working great for classes.
- A new saw for Lapidary was ordered.
- There have not been any donations to the club since the last meeting.
- Next week the contractor will pour the concrete to level the floor and for the handicap parking spaces.
- The club will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 17, 2023 and will open back up on Jan. 6, 2024.
- After the new year more cabinets will be installed for storage.
- Preparing for a stone inlay class by guest instructor Chuck Bruce in February. Seats are already full. But he can offer a second workshop on knife handles.
- The results of the Election are as follows: Vice President, Lyra Solochek; Treasurer, Linda Collins; Secretary, Katie Day; Board members, Greig Lundergan, Christy Gorrow, Rick Jackson. They will be sworn in at the January board meeting on January 8.
- Motion to adjourn, approved by all.

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## 2024 ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE TBMSC

### Officers

Peter Favaro, President  
Lyra Solochek, Vice-President  
Linda Collins, Treasurer  
Katie Day, Secretary

### Board Members

Tony Carrino  
Christy Gorrow  
Rick Jackson

Carlo Lucin  
Greig Lundergan  
(Kathy Reid will fill in temporarily for Greig)  
Melinda Riddle



# TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2023

Call to order: 6:45p.m.

Board members present: Melinda Riddle, Linda Collins, Lyra Solochek, James Denslow, Peter Favaro, Christy Gorrow

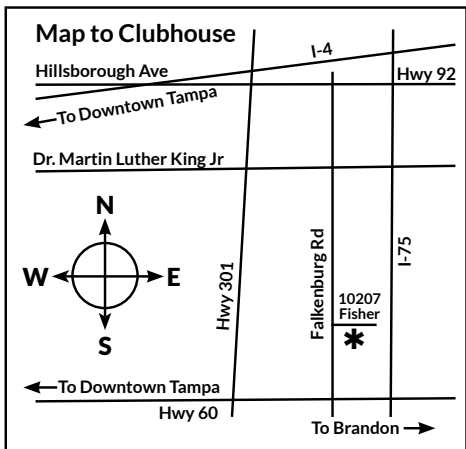
Non-board members: Kathy Reid, Rick Jackson by phone

- Motion to approve minutes presented by Melinda Riddle and seconded by Linda Collins. Approved by all.
- Treasury report was not able to be printed due to technical issues.
- Greig Lundergan, who will be sworn in as board member in January, will be stepping back temporarily due to medical issues. Kathy Reid will be stepping in until he returns. Rick Jackson will be sent all emails for the show from now on.
- Discussion on whether the spring show should be smaller. Table prices will be raised by \$10-\$15 dollars per table because of increases by the fairground. During the fall show we might have to raise admissions again because of the state ground parking prices.
- Discussion on whether Spring Show should include wholesale to attract more buyers.
- Motion to change the spring show to Retail and/or Wholesale was presented by Christy Gorrow. Seconded by James Denslow and approved by all.
- Discussion on when to start advertising for the show to emphasize that the show will be retail and/or wholesale.
- Discussion giving members a chance to buy a raffle throughout the year for a final drawing of multi-year membership.
- Discussion on tailgates at quarterly meetings. The December sale will become a members showcase where members may sell their creations. This will be open to the public.
- Discussion on ongoing construction.
- Discussion on adding more classes and reducing open shop times. Classes should have kits available for students to purchase. Motion to add class kits to each of the department budgets proposed by Melinda Riddle. Seconded by Linda Collins, approved by all.
- Faceting needs cases for the laps to prevent grit contamination. The motion to purchase lap cases for lapidary was proposed by Lyra Solochek. Seconded by Melinda Riddle, approved by all.
- Discussion on prepping for a school field trip to our facility.
- Discussion on presenting educational proposal to schools in the county.
- Discussion on having special presentations for our quarterly meetings, including guest speakers.
- An executive section was conducted.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by James Denslow seconded by Linda Collins and approved by all.

# 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
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):** \$40 individual, \$20 for each additional adult in the household, and \$4 for each child under 18.  
**Multi-year membership:** \$140 individual for 4 years, \$70 per additional adult in household for 4 years  
**Lifetime membership:** \$500 individual, \$250 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](http://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	