

THE CORAL GEODE

October 2025



ARE YOU READY?!

Our November Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show is almost here!

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THE CLUB WILL BE CLOSED OCT. 30-NOV. 2 FOR THE GEM SHOW.

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:

Lyra Solochek, Miles Bhavé

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, Miles Bhavé, Leah Welch

President's message

There is a lot going on at the Club! We are preparing for our next Show on November 1 and 2. We are full, with 57 vendors. We have demonstrations planned, including cabochon cutting, faceting, metal clay, silver and table crafts.

Your board is working hard and we need your help! Please sign up for volunteering on preparation day, October 25, set-up day October 31, and during the show. Without your help we could not do this show, so please help make it our best show yet! For more information about volunteering, see Page 3.

Construction will be going on this week, which hopefully will be completed by early next week. Doorways will be widened into Lapidary and Silver and a ramp put in inside the Lapidary door to accommodate people with assistive devices. Unfinished walls will be repaired as well.

Several decisions were made regarding use of the building by only one person. This will be permissible by instructors for ½ hour prior to their class. No equipment will be used during this time for safety.

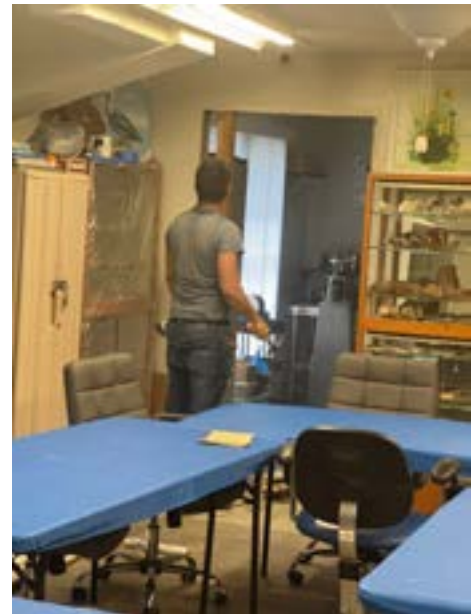
The board also decided that no firearms will be permitted in the building at any time.

I encourage everyone to use SignUp Genius for Open Shop so that we know how to staff.

Thank you all in advance for helping us with the volunteer work. The more the better!!!



Ellen Sisco
President



USA Kitchen And Bath Tampa workers have removed the shower stall in the Lapidary Shop to accommodate a wider doorway and a ramp. They've also widened the doorway to the Metal Shop.

ABOUT OUR CLUB



Address:
10207 Fisher Ave.,
Tampa, FL 33619



Email:
info@tampabayrockclub.org



Phone:
(813) 684-2039



Website:
tampabayrockclub.org



Calendar

IT'S SHOW TIME!



Our Fall Show is less than a month away on Nov. 1-2 at the Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center. We have 57 vendors lined up.

We need volunteers to help before and during the event:

- Oct. 25: Show prep. Organize and prepare bins for the movers to take to the venue. We will begin at 8 a.m. Refreshments will be served.
- On Friday, Oct. 31, Show setup: We will set up the club areas at the venue, and help direct vendors to their booth locations.
- Nov. 1 and 2, Show weekend: We need club members to staff the event — club table, kids area, admissions, demos and floor roamers. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday
- Nov. 2: Pack up and move out: We need help breaking down and packing our booths and preparing bins for movers to transport them back to the club. 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Click here
to sign up for
volunteer
shifts**



Signup for show volunteer shifts on SignUp Genius. We request you work a four-hour slot. You may shop before or after your scheduled time. Please check in at the club table when you arrive for assignments. Parking and admission are covered, but your name must appear on the admission list.

Thank you in advance for all your help. Our gem, mineral and jewelry show is one of the best in the state, and you, the club members, help us succeed. Let's make this another great show!

Lyra Solocheck, Show Chair





Deadline is Oct. 31 to run for a club leadership position

It's time to start thinking about the leadership election for 2026. Nominations **will be accepted through October 31**. Voting will begin in mid November and close at the members meeting on December 7.

Seats opening up are:

- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Three seats on the board of directors

If you are interested in running for any of these seats, please send an email to tampamineral@gmail.com with "Election" in the subject line. Or contact members of the Nomination Committee: board members Miles Bhavé and Patti Kepple, or club member Leah Welch.

CLASS REFUND POLICY

- **Registration & Deposits:** Class signups are handled through SignUp Genius. A deposit is required to reserve a spot.
- **Refund Eligibility:** To receive a full refund, 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 may be possible if the Club is notified at least 10 days before the class.
- **Processing Fee:** A 10% cancellation fee will be deducted from all refunds.
- **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.



New members!

Douglas Budai
Alisa Lorello
Nicole Fernandez
Jamie & Anja Carl
Madeline Potter
James Robe
Megan Arnold
Alex Petrov
Lindsay Saldana
Matthew Thomas
Allen Smith
Brian Mizzi
Ailin Richards
Rochelle Williams

Welcome back to
Jan Eckle
Nick Tsourakis

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. News-
letters are also online on
our [website](http://www.coralgeode.com).



Membership reminder

Many people have forgotten to renew their membership for 2025. If you happen to be one, I'm saddened to let you know that after this newsletter, I will start purging our email database and this may be your last newsletter.

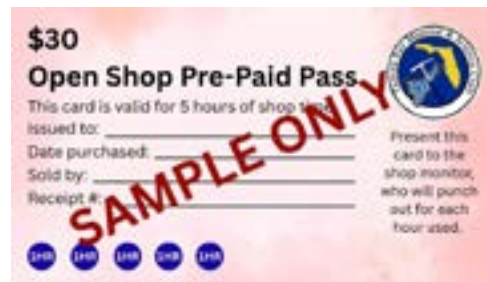
If however, you choose to remain active, I have a suggestion. By rejoining now or at the November 1 & 2 show or any time after that, I can offer you the remainder of 2025 as a small bonus and then your membership would be for 2026. You can renew online or at the show. I truly hope you would like to continue your membership.

To all the current members, it's getting to be time to renew. You can do this in person at the show or online. We can take cash, checks, credit cards, and PayPal. I will be around both days of the show to take care of memberships. It would be a great "From Santa, to Me" present.

If you have already taken care of your 2026 membership, GREAT! and I hope to see you at the show.

– Christy Gorrow, membership director

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 started using these cards in September. 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.

ROCKHOUNDING

Summer adventures, Part 2

From the quartz-rich hills of Arkansas to the sapphire streams of Montana, club members spent the summer chasing treasures across the country. At our quarterly meeting on Sept. 6, Michelle Wacker, Miles Bhavé, and Jeff and Lyra Solochech shared stories and highlights from their rockhounding trips. In this newsletter, we highlight the mines in Idaho and New York.

IDAHO — Opal mining

Club member Michelle Wacker shared her experiences at the [Spencer Opal Mines](#) in Idaho. She learned about this mine earlier this year, and she says she's "hooked!"

The mine has been in operation since 1941 and sits near the Continental Divide in Idaho, about 70 miles west of Yellowstone National Park.

At Spencer Opal Mine, you can find white opal (the most common), yellow opal, and the most coveted — the rare pink opal.

Check out [Michelle's website](#) for photos and videos of her digging experiences at Spencer.

Michelle is already planning a return visit for next digging season, which begins in May. Spencer has a limited number of spots for mining digs. If you want to join her in a dig, make sure to make your reservations on the [Spencer website](#). Deposit is \$45 and the balance of \$350 is due the day of the dig.

Michelle is going on May 30.



Photos courtesy of Michelle Wacker



The pink opal specimen is about 2,000 carats and valued at more than \$1 million.



White opal with flash can be found in the tailings pile at the mine.



Click here for a video by Michelle and Miles' friend Sarah. Follow her on TikTok at [@wild_goobar](#).

NEW YORK — Herkimer mines

Michelle is a regular when it comes to digging for Herkimer “diamonds” in New York.

This year, she visited the Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining and the better known KOA Herkimer Diamond Mine.

Check out [her website](#) on her Herkimer adventures with lots of videos, photos and tips.

One thing she suggested is to go with someone familiar with the mine you’re visiting, especially for the first time. Inside knowledge goes a long way when mining.



Photos courtesy of Michelle Wacker

MINES MICHELLE VISITED

Mohawk Valley Mineral Mining

www.mvmineralmining.com

KOA Herkimer Diamond Mine

www.koa.com/campgrounds/herkimer/recreation

Russell Family Mine

<https://m.facebook.com/russellfamily-mine/about>

Spencer Opal Mine

www.spenceropalmines.com

Big Dig Florida relic hunt

www.thebigdigflorida.com

If you’re interested in field trips or want more information about some dig sites, text Michelle at 631-428-4488.

Did you find the diamond?

On the cover of the newsletter last month, we featured an image of a tray showing a diamond discovered at the Crater of Diamonds in Arkansas. Did you spot it?





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

Club gem shows in Florida

October 2025

Oct. 18-19—PORT ST. LUCIE: Annual show; St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Club; Midflorida Event Center, 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$6, children with an adult: free. Custom-designed, handcrafted jewelry, gemstones, beads, rocks, minerals, slabs, tools & supplies, raffles. slcrockandgem.org

November 2025

Nov. 1-2—TAMPA: Annual show; Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center, 4800 U.S. 301, Tampa. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$12, seniors and military \$10, kids 12 and under free. Free parking when you enter via the MLK entrance. Explore over 55 vendors offering unique gems, minerals, beads, jewelry, and more. Enjoy family-friendly activities including a kids' sluice, rock ID touch table, scavenger hunt, and kids' make-and-take jewelry classes. tampabayrockclub.org

Nov. 8-9—MELBOURNE: Annual show; Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society; Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 for adults, Kids under 13 free. www.canaveral-mgs.com

Nov. 22-23—WEST PALM BEACH: Show and sale; The Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches; South Florida Fairgrounds, EXPO Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd; Sat. 9-10, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$11/Day, Pass \$16, Children under 12 free; The show features over 90 dealers offering a wide range of items. Fine Jewelry, Southwestern Native American Jewelry, bead jewelry, loose beads, rocks and minerals for collecting, loose gemstones, settings, fossils and much more. The show offers a wide range of educational and fun activities. gmspb.org/

December 2025

Dec. 5-7—HUDSON: Annual show; Withlacoochee Rockhounds; Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Road; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, Children 14 and under free. Free Parking. \$1 off coupon available on website — www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Dec. 6-7—MIAMI: Annual show; Miami Mineralogical & Lapidary Guild; Better Families Through Tae Kwon Do, 6723 SW 81st Street; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5, children under 12 free. Twenty dealers of great minerals, fossils, gemstones and jewelry as well as educational exhibits, kids' activities, geode cutting, cabbing demonstrations, a fluorescent display, and representatives from local university geology departments on hand to discuss all things geological. miamirocknerds.com

Members' showcase: Show us what you created!

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."



Lyra Solochek took advantage of a long flight over the Atlantic to work on her Peyote-stitch bracelet.



Kathy Reid found a beautiful Norena Jasper slab at a recent tailgate and made a cabochon out of it.



Kathy Reid's work in progress:
inlay cabochon



TABLE CRAFTS

Beads, wires on Wednesdays

Table Crafts has two sessions on Wednesdays. We meet in the afternoon from 1-4 p.m. and again in the evening from 6-9 p.m. All are welcome.

The afternoon group has been working on a loom project with 11/0 Delica beads. Most of the evening group is working on peyote stitch bracelets, but we have some adventurous souls who are trying Viking Knit and square and brick stitch.

Class fees are \$10 for 3 hours. We have a few supplies for purchase, but most people prefer to purchase their own materials, so they have the colors of their choice. We have some great finished projects that the makers are very proud of. I also can teach Kumihimo, chaining, and most forms of beading including peyote stitch (odd count, even count, tubular, and Peyote with a twist), square stitch, brick stitch, Cellini spiral, and loom work.

Want to know what these are? If you are curious about what these techniques are, come in and visit, check out what we're doing and see if you'd like to join the group. There are a number of examples in the case by the front door or come and visit us, we'd love to show off our work. If you can't come on Wednesday, contact me about the possibility of a Saturday or Sunday session.

— Christy Gorrow, cgorrow@juno.com



METAL SHOP

Fundamentals of Silver catch-up class

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 and Nov. 8

Have you taken a Fundamentals of Silver class, but was unable to finish your project during class? You're in luck: instructor Lisa Miller has scheduled two days to come into the metal shop to complete your work. Contact Lisa directly at meggymoo65@gmail.com or 772-631-1405 for more information.



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. Or purchase a pre-paid shop card in three different increments.

Click here to sign up



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.

Cost: \$345 total.

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



Click here to sign up

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.

Cost: \$655 total.

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



Click here to sign up

Minimum of seven students required for each class. Up to 15 maximum. If extra 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.



METAL CLAY

Intro to Metal Clay

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 22-23

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 13-14

Do you want to take Michael J. Marx's classes, but you've never done metal clay before? No problem. This class will

**Click here
to sign up**



introduce you to the basic techniques of the craft so you can get some experience before the guest instructor arrives in January. Learn how to roll, texture, shape and cut metal clay. Also find out how to care for and rehydrate clay, refine shapes,



fire and finish your pieces. This is an intensive one-day workshop. 25 grams of fine silver clay and findings needed for the projects are included in the price of the class. Tools are available to borrow. Bring a lunch.

TBMSC Fee: \$40 deposit to reserve a seat.

Instructor and Materials Fee: \$160 payable by check or cash on the day of the class.

FACETING

You, too, can learn to facet a beautiful gemstone

Beginning Faceting

• 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 22-23, 2025

• 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 13-14, 2025



**Click here
to sign up**



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.

LAPIDARY

More new cabbers learning the craft



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.
- Three-cab limit per day.
- 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.

Beginning Cabochon class

- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Oct. 18-19 (Lyra) 3 seats available
- 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19 (Leah) 5 seats available
- 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Nov. 15-16 (Lyra) 1 seat available

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

Click here to sign up



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.

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 capping 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

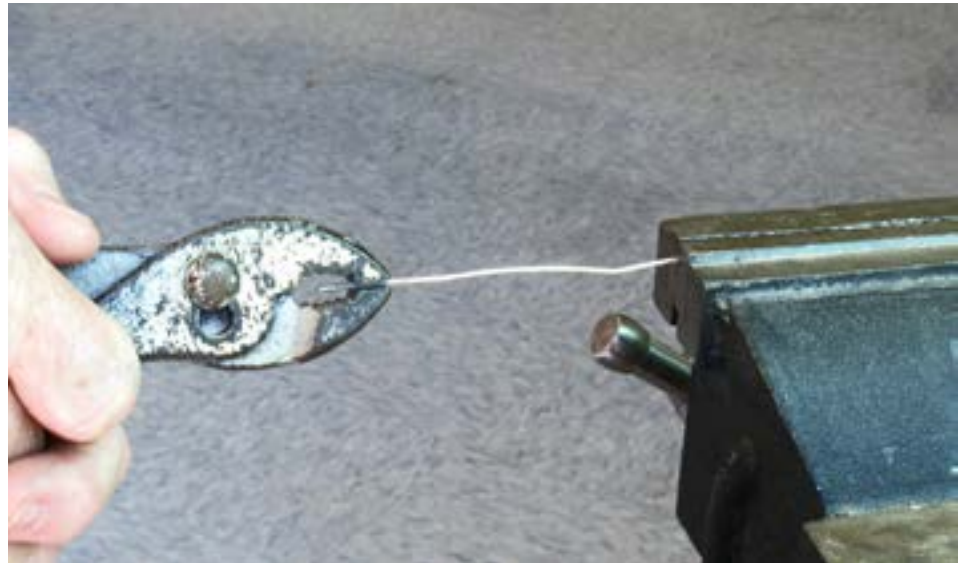
By Bradford Smith

Straightening wire

Have you ever reached for your silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the bench vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated-tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 gauge.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers



"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, October 11, 2025

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

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

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

Saturday, October 18, 2025

9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, October 19, 2025

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

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

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

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

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

Saturday, October 25, 2025

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Show Prep Volunteer Day

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. SILVER CATCHUP

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

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

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

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

Thursday, October 30, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW

Friday, October 31, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW
Election Submissions Due

Saturday, November 1, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 66th annual Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Sunday, November 2, 2025

CLUB CLOSED FOR SHOW
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 66th annual Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

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

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

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

Saturday, November 8, 2025

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. SILVER CATCHUP

Monday, November 10, 2025

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

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 2
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. TABLE CRAFTS

Friday, November 14, 2025

Online voting begins

Saturday, November 15, 2025

9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 1
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Sunday, November 16, 2025

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

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 3
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Lapidary Open Shop
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Metal Open Shop

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. BEGINNING CABOCHON, Day 4

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

Saturday, November 22, 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. Metal Open Shop
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. INTRO TO METAL CLAY

Sunday, November 23, 2025

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

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

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

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

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

Saturday, November 29, 2025

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

Monday, December 1, 2025

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

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

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

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Holiday members tailgate, meeting and potluck. Voting closes

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

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

Saturday, December 13, 2025

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. FACETING, DAY 1
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Metal Open Shop
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. INTRO TO METAL CLAY

Sunday, December 14, 2025

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

TBMSC Board Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2025

Present: Ellen Sisco, Lyra Solochek, Cindy Britten, Kathy Reid, Brenda Gregory, Christy Gorrow, Linda Collins

By phone: Miles Bhave

Presentation by Shark Coatings (for flooring)

Meeting called to order by Ellen Sisco at 7:00 p.m.

September Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Brenda Gregory. Seconded by Lyra Solochek. Approved by all.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Collins

- Discussion of Insurance Policy
- Set up new guidelines for instructors use and set up of equipment. Motion to approve Instructor Guidelines made by Linda Collins. Seconded by Cindy Britten. Approved by all.
- First installment of clubhouse repairs was made. Motion to approve club house repairs made by Carlo Lucin. Seconded by Kathy Reid. Approved by all.

Show Updates: Lyra Solochek

- 57 Vendors so far.
- Peter will do cabbing for a fee both days for customers who buy slabs from the club table
- Demos scheduled for Silver, Metal Clay and table crafts.
- We cannot set up anything on Thursday. Just drop off boxes
- Workday October 25 th – Start at 8 a.m.

Old Business

- Construction update – Ellen Sisco: Construction begins this week.
- New Shop Passes – Ellen Sisco: 3-4 sold so far.

Department Updates

- Lapidary – Lyra Solochek: Tuesday and Wednesday classes during the day now offered (instructor Leah Welch)
- Casting – Ellen Sisco: Mark needs new investment material, old material went bad. Still testing vacuum machine. No start-up date yet
- Silver – Linda Collins: Lisa Miller will continue teaching after a short break. She needs to have consumable supplies. Club will provide them. Look into a club discount from Rio Grande
- Faceting – Lyra Solochek: Classes scheduled for November and December
- Table Crafts – Christy Gorrow and Linda Collins: Wednesday class is still going well (afternoon and evening)

Linda will begin wire wrapping in November

- Metal Clay - Lyra Solochek: Scheduling a beginner class for November
- Guest lecturers/teachers: Michael Marks in January, Chuck Bruce possibly in February

New Business

- Firearms – Ellen Sisco: In response to state's open-carry law. No firearms will be allowed in the clubhouse. We will get signs
- Outdoor lighting – Start inquiry with TECO
- Paperwork needs to be filed with the state to maintain our non-profit status.

Motion to adjourn made by Lyra Solochek. Seconded by Christy Garrow. Approved by all.

8:02PM Meeting Adjourned

2025 September Treasurer's Report

	CHECKING	SAVINGS
Beginning Balance:	\$ 50,315.57	\$ 47,128.47
Ending Balance:	\$ 48,221.08	\$ 47,129.63
Income/Expenses:	<u><u>\$ 2,094.49</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1.16</u></u>

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

Sign-up Genius	\$ 2,357.40
Deposits: Tailgate	\$ 1,350.00
Deposit	\$ 429.00
Deposit	\$ 142.00
Deposit	\$ 192.00
Deposit	\$ 637.50
Deposit	\$ 225.00
Deposit	\$ 63.00
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 600.00
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 1,175.00
Deposit -Nov Show	\$ 3,075.00
	<u><u>\$ 10,245.90</u></u>

Clubhouse Expenses - July 2025

\$ 12,340.39

Buildings/Grounds Expenses:

\$ 5,482.75

T-Mobile Co. Phone	124.35
Teco	272.16
Company Utilities	26.75
Daniel Burd - Lawn Care	800.00
ADT Security	222.49
Frank Gay Services (A/C Mntce)	438.00
Frank Gay Services (A/C Mntce)	99.00
USA Kitchen & Bath TPA, LLC	3500.000

Lapidary Expenses:

\$ 305.93

Electric Motor Repair	190.76
Amazon Marketplace-Fans	37.74
Amazon Marketplace-Fans	41.05
Plant City- Lowes	36.38

2025 September Treasurer's Report (cont'd from page 1)

Operational Expenses:

\$ 1,391.71

Philadelphia Indemnity-Accident	777.00
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Lyra Solochech - <i>Geode /Aug - Sept</i>	300.00
Lyra Solochech - <i>Google Wkshp</i>	9.99
Go-Daddy	23.88
Facebook	9.99
Storage Bins	124.19
Insta Ink	21.49
Lowes	11.22
Staples	13.95
Sign-Up Genius	100.00

Trade Show Expenses:

Florida State Fairgrounds	5160.00
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\$ 5,160.00

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*

Patti Kepple**

Brenda Gregory*

Milind Bhavé**

Carlo Lucin**

Kathy Reid*

Rockhounding resources



Here are some websites that offer great information about rockhounding in Florida.

[Florida Rockhounding Location Guide & Map](#)

[How To Find Rocks rockhounding guide in Florida](#)

[Obtaining fossil permits in Florida](#)

[Gator Girl Rocks: America's Best Rockhounding Resource](#)

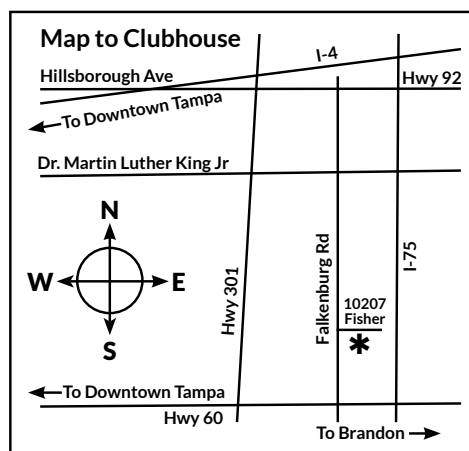
Additionally, the [Tampa Bay Fossil Club](#) hosts fossil-hunting field trips. Go to their website for more information.

Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club, Inc.

Membership Application

*Mandatory fields

Adult 1 Name*		Email*	Birth month
Adult 2 Name*		Email*	Birth month
Child (under 18)			Birth month
Child (under 18)			Birth month
Child (under 18)			Birth month
Address			
City	State	ZIP	Phone*
Preferred form of contact*			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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