

# CORAL GEM CODE



A Publication of the Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club

March

HOT ROCKS, COOL GEMS & FABULOUS JEWELRY

2021

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### ABOUT OUR CLUB

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## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[TAMPABAYROCKCLUB.ORG](http://TAMPABAYROCKCLUB.ORG)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gerri Lundergan

*It's almost Showtime!!!*

**March 20 – 21, 2021.**

Please share the event from  
our Facebook page.

What started out as a Spring  
Slab Sale has now morphed  
into a Spring Show. With the  
limited shows being held, our  
vendors have eagerly signed  
up, along with our members  
to bring our table total to 135.  
The club will have 4 tables and  
we have been putting together  
a nice selection of slabs,  
display minerals & some small  
pieces of rough. Plus, some  
stellar tumbled and polished  
pieces of Florida Agatized  
Coral.

We have a new venue in Plant  
City; The Sadye Gibbs Martin  
Community Center, which just  
opened in August 2020. It is  
bigger and extremely well lit,  
and easy access off of the Park  
Road Exit on I-4.

We will need volunteers on  
Friday to help set up the tables.  
Then on Saturday and Sunday  
we need members to work the  
front admission table. Shifts  
are 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and  
1:30-5:30 p.m. We need two

volunteers for cash/credit  
cards, one for taking temps  
and one for wrist bands, as  
well as on Sunday for break-  
down after the show.

Contact me to let me know  
which shift you would like to  
volunteer: 813-943-5665 or  
[dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com)

On to a few other items.  
Our thoughts and prayers  
go out to members who are  
struggling with a variety of  
health issues. You are missed  
and know our Club Family is  
here for you.

Strawberry Festival entries  
are in and we are awaiting  
the Festival opening to see  
everyone's placings.

State Fair entries are in and  
now we wait until we take them  
over to the fair in April.  
We have volunteered again  
to have our Informational/  
Demonstration Table at the  
State Fair. We have had a  
great time in the past couple  
years showing folks how  
awesome our club is and all  
that we offer. The fair has a

Continued on next page

new format for distance and safety. More information will be in the April Geode on volunteering for this exciting event. If you are interested in doing a demonstration of your craft send me an email or text. Thank you!

Recently there have been several members who have asked "How do you get started selling your crafts from Home?" For those who are interested, we will be putting together a seminar at the clubhouse on Saturday March 13 at 10 am. If you have a laptop bring it with you, so we can show you how to get onto Facebook, Instagram, and Etsy. We will go over branding, marketing, whether you really need a website, how to set up a Facebook business page, Instagram page and how to find the pages you can post on for free on Facebook. Plus, how to get onto Marketplace.

Message me if you plan to attend so I can plan for spacing and snacks. You will want to bring a notebook. 813-943-5665 or [dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com)

Enjoy this beautiful Spring weather we are having. The wildflowers are blooming, birds singing and this brings out terrific creative ideas.

Gerri Lundergan  
President

## SPRING SHOW UPDATE!

Our new spring show promises to be a smashing success! We have a full space, with wide aisles for social distancing and a great selection of vendors bringing lots of great material from which to choose. We have several club members with tables this time because this new larger space allows the room for that.

This new site, the Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center is larger than the Expo Hall, with much better lighting. I'm sure there will be a learning curve with the new location, but I'm excited about the possibilities available to us here.

We will need help at 8 a.m. Friday, because we'll have to set up tables on our own. After that, we will need people running cash and credit admissions, temperature checking and the club booth. A couple floaters during the show would not be amiss. Gerri Lundergan is maintaining the sign up book, so please contact her to put your names in slots. ([Dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:Dunpaintedfarm@yahoo.com)) She can better line you up with our needs. Remember, you get free admission on days that you help!

Check out the Show Flyer in this issue, and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions!

Jerri Heer, Show Chair  
419-344-9999  
[Jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:Jheerx6@aol.com)

## FACETING UPDATE

We are continuing to have Meet Point Faceting classes on Saturdays.

We are also offering classes during the week for those students who cannot take advantage of Saturday classes. We will work with students who prefer a weekday class (Tuesday or Wednesday), and determine which day is better for student and instructor.

This arrangement is relatively new.

Tom Dersham

*First Annual*  
**Spring Show!**

**TAMPA BAY MINERAL AND SCIENCE CLUB**

# **HOT ROCKS, COOL GEMS**

*and Fabulous Jewelry*

*New Location:*

**SADYE GIBBS MARTIN COMMUNITY CENTER**

**302 S. MARYLAND AVE, PLANT CITY, FL 33563**

**MARCH 20-21, 2021 Saturday - Sunday 10am-5pm**

• GEMS & MINERALS • FOSSILS • JEWELRY • TOOLS AND LAPIDARY SUPPLIES • BEADS • JEWELRY-MAKING SUPPLIES



THE CLUB WILL FOLLOW CDC COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOL: MASKS ARE REQUIRED. TEMPERATURE SCREENING WILL APPLY.  
ATTENDEES WILL HAVE FULL ACCESS TO HAND-SANITIZER STATIONS. VENDOR TABLES WILL BE SPACED TO PROVIDE SOCIAL DISTANCING.  
TRAFFIC PATTERNS WILL BE ENCOURAGED.

**ADULTS: \$5 TEENS 12-16 & STUDENTS WITH ID: \$4 ACTIVE MILITARY: \$4 KIDS UNDER 12: FREE (WITH PARENT)**  
**\$1.00 OFF ADMISSION - UP TO 4 PEOPLE - WHEN YOU PRESENT THIS FLYER AT THE DOOR • FREE PARKING!**

For more information, visit us at **[tampabayrockclub.com](http://tampabayrockclub.com)**



# LAPIDARY CORNER

with Gerri Lundergan



The shop has been busy!

We just finished up the first Beginning Cabochon class of 2021. This group has now eagerly signed up for the Cabochon 2 class, so we will continue to expand

their lapidary endeavors.

The slab saws are busy getting slabs ready for the show. Our Lapidary members have been thrilled that they have first choice on the slabs as they come out of the saws. We have a great selection of slabs available on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

We have availability for Member Rough to be cut. Bring it in on Tuesday or Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Gerri or Mark will get it all checked in. It is taking about 2 weeks to get items finished.

If you have not visited the Rock Pile, it is provided for our members. All finds are yours to keep. Recently, some fabulous specimens have worked their way to the top after our rains. We have fed the pile as well as a few members who have donated material for the Rock Pile.

***Best Rock Hounding in Florida. Hint – check along the top edge. We have been placing some great finds there for you.***



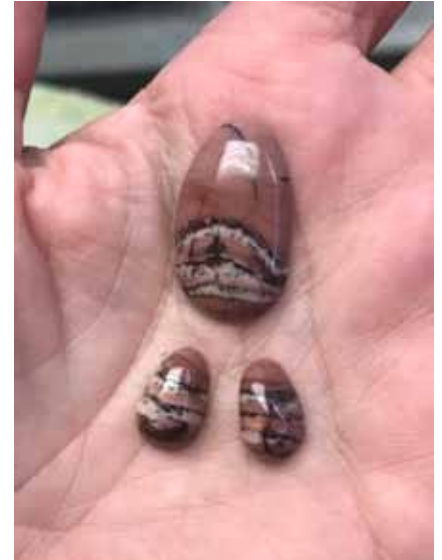
Our next Beginning Cabochon class will start April 10. The class runs for 6 weeks. We cover basic shapes, selection of material to cut, theory, shop safety, used of lapidary machines, creating finished pieces with a high-quality finish and polish that you will be proud to set or wrap. Cost for the

class is \$180. This includes all materials you will cab, your shop time and instruction. There are a couple seats remaining – you will need a deposit to reserve your spot in this class.

Cabochon 2 covers creating that even slightly angled girdle, then putting it on a calibrated cabochon, working a Mexican Fire Opal, basic stabilization for filling a Vugs or pits.

Cabochon 3 will cover doublets, Jade, Pendant & earring sets, and hearts.

Cabochon 4 will add basic composites, Intro to Opals, working Rutile.



We are extremely fortunate to be able to have a full lapidary shop. Clubs are either still closed or have lost their rented spaces. Some have turned to outside classes taught by members in their own shops.

We are happy to welcome Ron Wadas as a new monitor for our Open Shop days. He will be here to help cover either Tuesday or Thursday mornings during Open Shop.

Lapidary Schedule for March:

Open Shop Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
March 6 & 27: Saturday Open Shop 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Saturday March 13 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. "How to Sell your Crafts from Home Seminar."  
March 13: Open Shop 1-3 p.m.  
Saturday March 20: Clubhouse closed for Show.  
April 3: Open Shop 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

If you want to come in for Open Shop you must message or call to reserve a space.  
813-943-5665



# METAL SHOP NEWS

Good Afternoon Everyone. (It is the afternoon of March 1st, as I am writing this). I hope that everyone has had a good 2021 so far, and that you are starting to dig your way out of the Covid blues now that people are starting to be vaccinated and Florida's numbers are



starting to come down. As things are getting back to normal, we are starting to see more people express an interest in taking classes in the Metal Shop. We have had a steady flow of people signing up for Silver I, and many more people have expressed an interest in taking more advanced classes and workshops. I have several

people interested in taking the Silver I class; however, they are only able to attend in the evenings or on the weekend, and I am unable to commit to those days or times. If any of you are interested in teaching a Silver I class or a workshop, please, please, please get a hold of me. You can choose the projects you teach, as well as the times and days.



Currently, we have two people taking Silver I on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We are about 4 weeks into the class and have so far completed a copper bangle bracelet and a textured, sterling silver ring band, and we are now well into completing a pendant with a cabochon. Once this is completed, we will be doing

a split-shank ring with a cabochon setting. It is a joy to watch people learn this craft and to see what they create. Each person infuses their creations with their own personalities. This current class will end the first week in April, and the next one will start towards the end of April. It will take place on Tuesdays, and the time will depend on the availability of the students.

I am also offering Open Shop on the second and last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Any person who has completed the Silver I class or who has proven experience with metal smithing may come. The seating is limited due to social distancing requirements, so please text or email me ahead of time to save your spot. My email is [meggymoo65@gmail.com](mailto:meggymoo65@gmail.com), and my number is 772-631-1405. Open Shop is a great opportunity to use tools that you may not have in your own shop (like our Durston rolling mill), visit with other members and share creative ideas, and try out new tools and

techniques. Last Saturday, Lynn Sheffield brought her new, portable sand casting tool (is that the right word?) to the shop, and we had fun watching her try it out. Hopefully, in the future we can add this tool to our shop.

Currently, we have 3 acetylene torches that are in use at our soldering station. We also have a Little Smith torch with an oxygen tank and a propane tank, but it has not been fully set up. I would love to get this torch up and running, using either propane or acetylene, but I have no experience with it. If anyone has experience/expertise with a Little Smith torch and would be willing to help get it up and running. I



would greatly appreciate it. Once it is up and running, I would also need someone willing to teach me how to use it, so that I can then teach other members. I am always working to improve our metal shop both in the tools that we have and in the level of instruction, so that our members have a better experience. To that end, I have been busy watching silver smithing videos and trying new techniques. Currently, I have been going through some of the instructional videos on [atthebench.com](http://atthebench.com) with Andrew Berry.



I like his videos because he takes the time to explain everything he is doing and why he is doing it. I am also enjoying watching some of Lucy Walker's videos on Instagram, as well as the ones that [monzonjeweler](https://www.instagram.com/monzonjeweler) has to offer. Each jeweler has something valuable to offer and different techniques that I can apply to my work and hopefully bring to the classes I teach at the club.

In some of my most recent projects, I have been playing around with textures using the Club's rolling mill, and I have been repurposing old jewelry to add gold elements as seen in the enclosed pictures.



Well that is all for now. Please send me pictures of the work that you have been doing at home. I would love to post them in the newsletter for the other members to see.

See you next month!  
Lisa

# TAMPA BAY MINERAL AND SCIENCE CLUB BOARD MEETING

February 8, 2021

Board Meeting Members in Attendance:  
Susan Bucciero, Gerri Lundergan, Grieg Lundergan, Peter Favaro, Melinda Riddle, Irene Potter, Jerri Heer.

Meeting called to order at 6:44 p.m.

Secretary's Minutes from January, 2021 Board Meeting. Motion to accept January 2021 minutes by Jerri Heer. Second to accept January 2021 minutes by Peter Favaro.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

\$43,392.92 in money market. \$14,171.92 in checking. \$57,564.84 total. There are no additions or corrections to the treasurer's report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Keys to the building. The cost is \$2.52 per new key. New gate key and padlock are definitely needed. There is a possibility of having a new digital keypad in lieu of actual keys to other doors. The back door to the club house needs to be repaired so that there is a tight fit; currently there is not a tight fit. This would be a minor repair that is needed. Motion to get new digital key pads (instead of hard key) by Peter Favaro. Second to get new digital key pads (instead of hard key) by Grieg Lundergan.  
All in favor of getting new digital key pad locks.

2. Evaluation of Insurance. The club's current insurance policy might be short of coverage. \$52,900.00 in replacement value.  
ACTION ITEM: Geri Lundergan will be researching getting inventory counted and will get that information to Jerri Heer. This discussion was tabled until next meeting.

3. Tailgate Report. There were 4 members that attended to sell their materials.

4. Monthly Bills Evaluation. TECO Electric: \$79.63 for the month of January, \$139 for December.  
Water: Approximately \$200 per year.  
Total monthly bills: Approximately \$325 per month.

5. Security Camera Updates. After 3/31/21 the current security camera company is going out of business; after this date there will be no further support.  
The club can run the current system without the company, although there will be no technical support.  
The current system and cameras are not compatible with other companies; the 8 cameras we have will have to be used until they are no longer operational then the club will need another system.  
The club may want to repurpose the current 8 cameras to other locations for increased security.  
ACTION ITEM: Jerri Heer will contact ADT to get a quote for an upgraded system.  
We will table this topic until more information is obtained.

6. Repair of Show Shed Floor Update. James Denslow will be fixing in the near future.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Show taking place March 20-21, 2021. This new venue has been requested for next year; the first weekend in April, 2022. Already received 17 vendor applications; 75 tables already reserved.  
This venue is slightly larger, therefore there can be an 8-10-foot space around each ta-

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ble; 130 proposed tables can fit into venue. The application to the police department for security has been filed.

Electrical/power chords will need to be purchased.

Rental of rugs or other covering is needed to cover power chords on the floor; Aramark might be a vendor to supply these. The lighting at this venue is better than that of the Strawberry Festival venue.

Masks are mandatory during the show and for set up/breakdown. Temperatures will be taken upon entry into the building; once completed the attendant/vendor will be given a wrist band.

Member volunteers will be scheduled for 4-hour shifts; 9:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed: Front desk: 2 members, Taking temperatures: 1 member, Club Sales Booth: 2 members; additional members are needed to walk the floor as "security;" total volunteers needed: 6 to 7 members per shift and 12 to 14 members per day.

Two police officers are needed: one inside and one outside.

**ACTION ITEM:** Gerri Lundergan will send an email out to schedule club volunteers for the show and set up on Friday.

Meeting suspended at 7:21 p.m. for Executive session

Executive session ended at 7:36 p.m.

### Board Meeting Continued

2. Flower bed raking prior to painting. **ACTION ITEM:** Gerri Lundergan will send an email to all members to find volunteers for raking.

3. SOP updates: Gerri Lundergan created a list of items needing updates and verification so that SOPs can be congruent with the bylaws and/or minutes. **ACTION ITEM:**

Gerri will review the list of updates needed, the current bylaws, and SOPs to make sure all three documents are congruent with the same information.

4. The filing cabinet. The contents of the filing cabinet in the bathroom need to be reviewed and decisions need to be made for proper retention or destruction of obsolete documents. Volunteers are needed for this review. **ACTION ITEM:** Board members are encouraged to attend board meetings an hour early to use this time to review old files.

5. Committees. The club needs to have volunteers to fill available committees. For example Irene Potter is interested in heading an Education Committee.

### ITEMS FROM FLOOR:

Eye Wash Stations:

The club currently does not have any eye wash stations, but three are needed. They accessibility to the eyewash station should be unobstructed and within the work area according to OSHA.

Research is needed because there are several kinds of stations: portable, manual, unpowered, etc. Self-contained eye wash stations are preferred. More fact finding, including pricing, is needed before these are purchased.

Motion to adjourn by Melinda Riddle.

Second to adjourn by Peter Favaro.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## FLUORESCENT ROCKS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST



## SLAB SAWS





# BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

## SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized



rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies.

The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

## USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.



So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the

3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

Are you Missing your Jewelry Classes? Try an online session at home!

### Online Class - Castellated Bezels

March 13th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST



The castellated setting is a fabulous way to show off a larger cabochon in a fresh, bold, and beautiful way. It works particularly well for larger stones in both rings and pendants.

The setting is formed from heavy gauge 14 or 16 thick material with equally spaced cuts cut all around.

Join me for this online class to learn the tricks of working with thick bezel material. This setting is worthy of your best cabochon. It makes stones up to a inch or more look great in a ring design and larger ones in pendant or bracelet designs - your choice after completing this bezel.

Class fee \$85 Registration closes March 5th

Contact: BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

### Online Class - Adding Textures Without a Mill

March 27th 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST

Jewelry makers use textured surfaces to add depth, complexity and elegance to their designs. We all have our favorites, but this session is bound to turn up a few new ones for you, all without the need of expensive equipment like rolling mills or hydraulic presses.

The online session will feature 20 different techniques for adding texture - including a variety of simple punches, hammers and rotary tools. Some are applicable to raw sheet material while others can be used on partially fabricated pieces.

Class fee \$85 Registration closes March 25th

Contact: BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

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