



From our President

Welcome to April.

This is the first newsletter being prepared by our new newsletter editor. Carol stepped forward to take over this duty. Please support her with your photos, articles, and encouragement. Totally grateful to her for taking this over. I did the newsletter for five years and it was getting more and more challenging to muster the enthusiasm and ideas that our club deserves. Kudos and gratitude to Carol for volunteering.

Our March meeting had 17 attendees. This included new members that joined at the show and those who were planning to join. The guests and new members introduced themselves and they are here to learn and create and develop their skills. It's exciting to see our club growing. Welcome to our club.

Mario gave a very interesting and informative presentation about his trip out west rockhounding and visiting the Tucson Show. He had stories and a table full of specimens some of which were even new to him. There was time for questions which Mario was pleased to answer.



Elizabeth Bishop
2024 President

We need your ideas. Roz and Erleen are already planning the 2025 Symphony of Gems. See the minutes for a list of volunteer positions.

Hope to see you at the April meeting.

Key Dates

April 4—CBRGC Meeting (6 PM, Merritt Island Public Library)

April 6-7—Crystal Festival, Utah (see page 5 for details)

April 20—"Circle Up" Swap Meet, Apopka. (see page 5 for details)

April 27-28—Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show, Sanford (see page 5 for details)

Workshop Info

Open Shop Hours:

- Sundays—1-4
- Wednesdays—9:30-12:30 and 1-4
- Thursdays—Call or text Mario at 321-593-2958 to confirm

Location:

- 407 Imperial Boulevard, Unit D-1B, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Donations Wish List

- Our workshop could use some basic supplies—any and all donations of the following are welcome: facial & bathroom tissue, white & light colored copy paper, shoe boxes (either plastic or cardboard)

At our April Meeting...Unearthing History

Join us at our April meeting for a captivating session with **Dr. Daniel Warner**, a distinguished biblical historian and archaeologist, who will be presenting an overview of the Tel Gezer excavation in Israel. This site is renowned for its ancient and unparalleled water system dating back to 2000 BC (pictured at right). With over 35 years of experience in the field, Dan has co-directed digs in Tel Gezer and Tel Hadid, and also worked at other sites in Israel and Egypt including Tel Kabri, Megiddo, Tel el-Far'ah, Gerar and Ashkelon. Currently enriching minds at Liberty University and Valencia University, Dan brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the depths of history with an expert who has been at the forefront of unearthing our past.



General Membership Meeting

Merritt Island Library

March 7, 2024

Call to Order—6:14 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome Visitors—Seventeen people signed in. There were six visitors/new members. Sam joined at the show, Matt was a visitor, Jill (JR) joined tonight, Cynthia and Patty are new members. Hanna is going to tour the shop and will probably join.

Approval of Minutes—Minutes not read as Elizabeth forgot them.

Treasurer's Report—Michele read the report. .

Show Report for 2025—Erleen spoke of the need to get started preparing for the 2025 show. There will be a show meeting in June. She discussed the improvements that were made to the 2024 show that included moving the admission table closer to the door to improve flow, the addition of wrist bands that improved security, and moving the Silent Auction booth to the back corner.

In order to improve the show, the club needs members to post on their Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter (or X), TikTok, or any social media account.

The club needs all members to sign up for something, such as:

- Food for the vendors on Saturday and Sunday. Purchase food, set it out, and make coffee.
- Help cleaning kitchen and other areas on Sunday afternoon.
- Badges for vendors, volunteers, and officers.
- Front desk volunteers.
- Help on Thursday picking up supplies from shop and storage unit and from Roz's.
- Electric strips – tape down on Kiwanis floor.
- On Friday morning, unload and distribute supplies and equipment at show.
- On Sunday afternoon, breakdown and takedown and transport and unload.
- Look for food trucks and get menus.
- Flyers copied and cut.
- Flyers distributed 1-2 weeks prior to show.

Workshop Report—Mario reported. Genie 1 and Pixie 1 are down. Mario purchased an aquarium pump to assist with water flow on pixie and genie. He will continue to work on this to see if it is feasible to use this type of pump for all cab machines. All other equipment working.

Break—6:45 PM.

After the break, Mario gave a very informative presentation on his rockhounding trip out west and his attendance at the Tucson Show. He spoke about the wagon full of specimens he brought in. There was time for questions.

Chairs and tables were put away and the meeting was adjourned 7:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Bishop.



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	4 Monthly Meeting 6 PM @ Merritt Island Public Library	5	6 Crystal Festival (see page 5)
7 Open Shop 1-4 PM Crystal Festival (see page 5)	8	9	10 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	11	12	13
14 Open Shop 1-4 PM	15	16	17 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	18	19	20 "Circle Up" Swap Meet (see page 5)
21 Open Shop 1-4 PM	22	23	24 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	25	26	27 Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show (see page 5)
28 Open Shop 1-4 PM Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show (see page 5)	29	30				

Master The Art!

Unleash your inner artisan with CBRGC's lapidary and jewelry-making workshops! Our club's skilled artisans are offering a diverse range of classes to all members, eager to share their expertise in everything from cabbing to wire wrapping to opal cutting. Whether you're a seasoned gem-cutter or a curious beginner, there's a place for you here. Dive into our class offerings on the CBRGC website and discover the perfect workshop to ignite your creativity. Here's a sneak peek at what's available:

Class	When	Instructor	Contact Information
Wire Wrapping, Opal Cutting or Intarsia	Wednesdays from 1-4	Michele	raymich06@bellsouth.net
Cabbing	Mondays and Thursdays	Mario	321-593-2958
Wire Wrapping or Cabbing	TBD	Tom Brown	tbrown2045@cfl.rr.com
Glass Fusing	TBD	Lucy	321-522-1732
Beginner Silver, Advanced Silver, Southwest, Filigree, Baskets or Casting	TBD	John Catana	Jcatana58@gmail.com
Kumihimo or Basic Chainmaille	TBD	Elizabeth or Roz	izbet@aol.com; roz.mestre@att.net

Silver Casting Class

by Elizabeth Bishop

From Thursday, February 28th through Saturday, March 1st, John Catana taught a 3-day silver casting class that uses the lost wax process. Nine members of our club signed up for this class which the largest casting taught. It is also the maximum number of flasks the kiln can accommodate.

On Thursday evening, the class met to create wax models that would be used in casting. The wax models have to be cleaned to remove excess wax and imperfections.

On Friday evening, we met to form the wax models into a tree to be mounted onto the base and then fitted into the flask. Sticky wax is used to secure the wax models onto the bases. Investment, which is a plaster like material is poured over the wax models. A vacuum device is used to remove air bubbles from the investment. The flasks filled with investment are left to set overnight.

On Saturday morning, John removes the base from the flasks and places the flasks in the kiln so the wax can melt, drain, and burn out of the flasks. Once the desired temperature is reached, the flask is removed from the kiln and placed in a carriage. The silver is melted with an acetylene torch. The shop uses a spring-loaded centrifugal casting machine that moves the metal into the mold.

Once the flask cools slightly, it is dipped in a bucket of water that dissolves the investment and releases the cast silver. The final step is cleaning and polishing the silver.



Top row photos: (left) creating wax models; (center) Linda with wax tree; (right) flasks in vacuum pump and flasks waiting to be filled or dried

Bottom row photos: (left) John melting the silver for casting; (center) removing investment from silver; (right) cleaning the silver



Upcoming Events and Key Resources

These upcoming events are a treasure trove of activities for enthusiasts and artisans alike. Whether you're looking to polish your lapidary or jewelry-making skills, or stock up on slabs or equipment, we have something for you. Don't miss these opportunities to connect with fellow artisans, learn from seasoned experts, and celebrate the beauty of lapidary art! *Don't forget to check out the workshops offered by our club's experts—see page 3 of this newsletter and the CBRGC website for additional information.*

Events:

- April 6&7—Crystal Festival (see inset on this page)
- April 20—"Circle Up" Swap Meet (see inset on this page)
- April 27&28—Rock, Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show (see inset on this page)

Key Resources:

- Visit our the reference area on our CBRGC website (<https://centralbrevardgems.com/reference>) for links to expand your interest in rocks and minerals
- The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts (<https://lapidaryschoolregistration.org>) offers a variety of courses on lapidary and jewelry arts

The Crystal Festival

A Happy Place with Rockhounds




Rock, Mineral, Crystal Show!

2024 SHOW SCHEDULE  WWW.CRYSTALFESTIVAL.ORG
WWW.CRYSTALFESTIVAL.ORG | BY: THE CRYSTAL BARISTA
 UTAH - COLORADO - NEVADA | FREE & FAMILY FRIENDLY

FEBRUARY 17TH & 18TH - LAYTON, UTAH
MARCH 16TH & 17TH HURRICANE - UTAH
MARCH 30TH & 31ST - RENO, NEVADA
APRIL 6TH & 7TH - ROOSEVELT, UTAH
JUNE 15TH & 16TH - MOAB, UTAH
JULY 13TH & 14TH - COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
AUGUST 3RD & 4TH - VERNAL, UTAH
AUGUST 24TH & 25TH, SANDY, UTAH
NOVEMBER 16TH & 17TH - LAYTON, UTAH
DECEMBER 14TH & 15TH - LOGAN, UTAH





"CIRCLE UP" SWAP MEET

April 20, 2024, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Westside Community Church, Front Lawn & Drive Circle
 1937 Lakeville Road, Apopka, FL

Sponsored by: *Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society*

Rock Clubs and Individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell, and swap anything that is LAPIDARY related! Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry, to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped or sold!

- Limited to 40 spaces. Outdoors, in the circle under the trees.
- \$25 per 10' x 20' space.
- You bring your tables, tent, and chairs. No electricity provided.
- Rain or shine event!

For more information, contact Nancy Allman, 407-739-0051 or email @ faceittoday@gmail.com.

*To reserve your space, send \$10. Nonrefundable deposit to Venmo, Wekiva Gem and Mineral Society @WekivaGem.
 Balance due April 1, 2024.*

Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society, 586 Honeysuckle Ct., Apopka, FL 32712

THE ROCK, MINERAL, GEM, AND JEWELRY SHOW

SPRING SHOW

ENJOY DEMONSTRATIONS, DOOR PRIZES, SILENT AUCTIONS, AND KIDS ACTIVITIES. PLEASE VISIT THE VENDOR TABLES TO PURCHASE GEMSTONES, MINERALS, UNIQUE BEADS, HANDMADE JEWELRY, FOSSILS, ARTIFACTS, AND METAPHYSICAL STONES

PRESENTED BY
CENTRAL FLORIDA MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY

APRIL 27, 2024
 9:00am – 5:00pm
APRIL 28, 2024
 9:00am – 4:00pm

Admission:
 Ages 16 and up \$6.00
 Ages 6-15 \$3.00

City of Sanford Civic Center
 401 East Seminole Blvd.
 Sanford, Florida 32771




**CFMGS 6100 S. ORANGE AVE., SUITE 190A ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32809
 CONTACT/WEBSITE: CFMGS.ORG**

Club Purpose

The purpose of this club is to foster interest in and to promote knowledge and appreciation of minerals, gems, fossils, and the earth sciences.

We also disseminate information and instruction in the lapidary arts and the utilization of precious metals in our crafts. These purposes are accomplished through regular meetings with informative programs, workshops, study groups, and field trips.



Officers

President:	Elizabeth Bishop	(321)452-1579	izbet@aol.com
1st Vice President:	Vacant		
2nd Vice President:	Mario Vento	(321)593-2958	rokounds@gmail.com
Secretary:	Roz Mestre	(321)632-8281	Roz.mestre@att.net
Treasurer:	Michele Huntington	(321)799-8536	raymich06@bellsouth.net

Directors

Erleen Estes	2023-24
John Catana	2023-24
Sara Fellows	2022-23

Shop Location:

407 Imperial Boulevard, Unit D, Cape Canaveral, FL
(Imperial is located off A1A just south of the Port)



Member of Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. - www.southeastfed.org

Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - www.amfed.org



From the Beginner Silversmithing Workshop

One of our newest members, Hannah, crafted this beautiful pendant ring in the Beginner Silversmithing Workshops under the expert guidance of John Catana. Congratulations on a fabulous job, Hannah!



April Birthdays

- 3rd Sharon Cox
- 6th Kara Bosshardt
- 23rd Charles Denaburg
- 28th Philip Howard
Cynthia Stapf
- 30th Jeanette Lee

Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club Inc.

2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANNUAL DUES: ADULTS \$30.00, JUNIOR: \$10.00 (under 18 w/parent)

DATE: _____ NEW RENEWAL JUNIOR

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE#: _____ CELL#: _____

BIRTHDAY DAY MONTH/DAY: _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST;

- GENERAL BEADING CABOCHONS CASTING FACETING FUSED GLASS
- INLAY INTARSIA KUMIHIMO OPALS SILVER WIRE WRAP

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?

FACEBOOK WEB FRIEND OTHER: _____

CBRGC USE ONLY

DATE: _____ PAID: _____

CASH CHARGE CHECK # _____

CARD ISSUED BY: _____

CLUB FUNCTION: _____ INITS: _____

SAFETY BRIEFING: _____ INITS: _____

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

