



From our President

The weather is starting to warm up and the cooler days are going away. It is beach weather and there are many treasures to be found at the ocean like sea glass and sea beans and sea shells and shark teeth. It is also a great place to go and cool off and get grounded just by walking in the sand. It is also a good time to start planning rock hounding trips up north or out west or take a class at William Holland or spend time with family. Whatever you do, take photos and write it up for the newsletter. Or give a talk at one of our meetings.

Soon we will be breaking for the summer. There will be no general meetings during July and August. The Board will still meet during the summer. The shop will remain open and there will be classes offered and Shop Supervisors will be in open shop ready to assist and teach. The web site will keep you informed of club activities and we will send out email blasts if necessary.



Elizabeth Bishop
2024 President

One of our favorite speakers, Aiden Rouse, will be talking at our May meeting. He will share his new adventures and there will be slides and specimens. Aiden first spoke at our club when he was a high school student. Please plan on attending and bring any young people who want to be encouraged.

Key Dates

May 2—CBRGC Meeting (6 PM, Merritt Island Public Library)

May 17-19—Melbourne Gem Show (see page 6 for details)

June 15-16—Crystal Festival, Moab, UT (see page 6 for details)

October 12—Annual Club Picnic

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

At our May Meeting...

Aiden Rouse is an independent-studying paleontologist based in the Central Florida Area. Throughout his career, he has participated in local field work, developed outreach programs, performed research, and even been featured on the big screen. For the past few years, Aiden has been engaged in research projects revolving around sauropod (long-neck) dinosaurs; traveling all over the country to reveal the stories these titans tell us. Join us for this presentation as you take an exclusive look into new, revealing discoveries that are to change our understanding of the largest animals to walk this planet.

AIDEN ROUSE PRESENTS: **INTO THE VAULT** AN EXCLUSIVE LOOK AT NEW RESEARCH ON EARTH'S TITANS



General Membership Meeting Merritt Island Library April 4, 2024

Call to Order—6:12pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome Visitors—Joshua...possible new member.

Approval of Minutes—No quorum, minutes referred to newsletter.

Treasurer's Report—Michele reported: March income was less than expenses. However, year-to-date total income was greater than expenses.

Membership Report—Mario reported that we have 67 members.

Workshop Report—Mario reported that Genie 2 & Pixie 2 now have aquarium pumps and seem to be working.

Classes—Beginner silver classes on going with John, cabbing with Mario. Chainmaille scheduled for next week.

Newsletter—Carol introduced herself as new editor. Latest newsletter looked really great. She is asking members to send any interesting news or pictures.

Classes—John brought in several silver pieces from casting and silver classes.

Refreshments served, people socialized and slabs available for purchase.

Speaker—Dr. Daniel Warner presented a slide presentation and overview of the Tel Gezer excavation in Israel. which was known for the unparalleled water system dating back 2000 BC.

Meeting Adjourned—7:30pm

Minutes prepared by Roz Mestre



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	2 Monthly Meeting 6 PM @ Merritt Island Public Library	3	4
5 Open Shop 1-4 PM	6	7	8 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	9	10	11
12 Open Shop 1-4 PM	13	14	15 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	16	17 Melbourne Gem Show (see page 6)	18 Melbourne Gem Show
19 Open Shop 1-4 PM Melbourne Gem Show	20	21	22 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	23	24	25
26 Open Shop 1-4 PM	27	28	29 Open Shop 9:30 AM-12:30 PM 1-4 PM	30	31	

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

Beyond the Quarry

Member Fred O'Brien Shares His Rock & Gem Journey

Fred O'Brien, a member of the Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club since 2015, brings a wealth of experiences to his passion for lapidary arts. Let's explore his journey, inspirations, and insights into the world of rock and gem crafting.

- **Profession:** Fred has pursued various professions, from rock splitting in quarries to driving trucks professionally. He also has experience in factory work, specializing in bonding Teflon. Fred served in the Navy, adding another layer to his diverse background.
- **Beyond Lapidary Arts:** Outside of lapidary pursuits, he enjoys science, archaeology, and weightlifting. Family is important to him, with daughters in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Remarkably, Fred has been married twice to the same woman.
- **Membership and Journey:** Fred joined the Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club in 2015, sparking his enduring passion for lapidary arts which is rooted in his childhood fascination with rocks.
- **Creative Process and Preferences:** He prefers working with agates, drawn to their picturesque formations, especially those with images of crosses. His creative process is intuitive, guided by the natural contours of the stone.
- **Staying Updated and Sourcing Materials:** He stays informed through books, television, and library visits. He sources materials from various sources, including workshops, building materials, and items he brought with him from California, where he lived for many years.
- **Memorable Creations:** Fred's most cherished creation is a beveled square tiger eye pendant that he wears proudly (*shown in photo at right*). Its significance lies in his mastery of the craft and personal connection to the stone.
- **Advice for Aspiring Artists:** Fred advises aspiring artists to ask questions, explore materials firsthand, and immerse themselves in relevant literature. Curiosity and hands-on experience are key to honing one's craft.



Thank you, Fred, for sharing a little about your background and experience in lapidary arts!

Chainmaille Creations

Rhonda and Jody, two of our talented members, have just wrapped up an exciting Chainmaille class, skillfully guided by Roz. Take a peek at the photos below to admire their impressive work to create some exquisite earrings. Well done, Rhonda and Jody!



Flower Earrings
by Jody



Byzantine Earrings
by Rhonda

See What Our Members Are Up To

Cheryl Snyder: Bridging Wellness and Gemstone Wisdom

On April 6th, CBRGC member **Cheryl Snyder** showcased her expertise at the 'I Am the Solution Natural Health Summit' in Rockledge. Amidst a backdrop of various healing modalities, including chiropractic care, saunas, and massage therapy, Cheryl stood out with her table, captivating attendees with her knowledge and passion.

Not only is Cheryl an active participant in cabbing and silversmithing within our club, but she also extends her talents as a Yoga instructor, Chakra Balancing practitioner, and a guide to the healing properties of crystals. She also gave a presentation on gems our very own '2023 Rock & Gem Expo' hosted at the Cocoa Beach Library.

Congratulations to Cheryl for her ongoing commitment to spreading awareness and enlightenment in the realms of natural health and gemstone education. Her contributions continue to enrich our community, and we applaud her achievements.



Elizabeth Bishop: Crafting With Cold Connections

During the April 10th open workshop, I was able to do get instruction and assistance from John Catana on cold connections. I brought in my cold connections tool box (which has all my metals) and created two pairs of earrings using copper, brass, and textured aluminum sheet metal. The tools used were the Dremel with a drill bit, awl, files, a metal hole punch, a small ball peen hammer, metal shears, and rivets.

First, the sheets are cut to the desired size and then the edges need to be filed to remove sharp edges and burrs. The metal pieces may then need to be flattened using a rawhide hammer on a metal block. The rawhide hammer will not scratch the metal. Next the holes for the ear wires and rivets can be drilled or punched. The pieces are placed, and rivets inserted. This is done by placing the awl firmly at the top of the rivet and lightly tapped with the ball peen hammer to open the rivet, then using the hammer to flatten it

This is a great skill for those who are not yet ready to work with torches or invest in sterling silver. Some of these metals and supplies can be purchased at local hobby shops or hardware stores, or online.

Article submitted by Elizabeth Bishop



Photos (left to right): stamped aluminum base pieces, drilling, awl on rivet, pieces for 2nd pair

Upcoming Events and Key Resources

While summer beckons relaxation and vacations, the excitement doesn't halt in our community! We've got a lineup of upcoming events that you won't want to miss. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or a curious newcomer, there's something for everyone. Plus, be sure to explore the enriching workshops hosted by our club's experts. Refer to page 3 of this newsletter and visit the CBRGC website for more details. Get ready for an unforgettable summer filled with discovery and creativity!

Events:

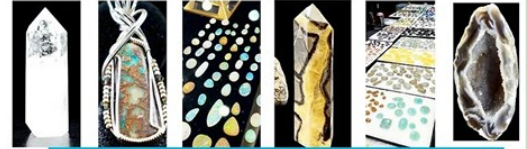
- *May 17-19*—Melbourne Gem Show, 10am to 5pm each day (Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Boulevard)—visit <https://hrgemshows.com> for more information
- *June 15-16*—Crystal Festival (Moab, Utah)—see inset on this page

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



MAKE A NOTE

Summer Club Schedules

May 2—Regularly scheduled Club meeting (6 pm at Merritt Island Public Library)

July & August—No Club meetings, but shop schedule remains the same

September—Regular monthly meetings resume beginning September 5

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	rokhounds@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



May Birthdays

14th Taylor Culmore

15th Pete Hoyos

16th Darlene Nardi

24th Sara Fellows

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



Central Brevard Rock and
Gem Club, Inc
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