



From our President

Well, here we are quickly approaching the month of March.

While I couldn't attend our club's annual Expo, I was updated regularly while in Tucson. Once my packages arrive back in Florida, I plan to do a show & tell on everything that went on at the Tucson show (just like last year). Unfortunately, I got very sick while out there and while I am better, I am having breathing issues – I also fell and probably have a hernia in my lower back. Ahhh, the joys of rock hounding!! I have missed all of you and, while I really enjoyed the trip I am glad to be back home too!!

I can't wait to see everyone at the March meeting. Until then...**Rock On!**

Mario Vento
2025 President

Key Dates

- **March 6**—Monthly meeting at Merritt Island Public Library
- **March 15-16**—Spring Rock & Mineral Sale
- **March 29**—SM&GS Rock Swap
- **April 10-13**—Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Dig
- **April 26-27**—Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show

See *page 3* for additional 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

Reminder: 2025 Membership Dues

2025 membership dues are now due! The cost is \$30 for the year, and members have until **the end of March** to renew. You can pay your dues at one of our monthly meetings or at the workshop. Please contact **Tom Brown** with any questions (tbrown2045@cfl.rr.com).

March 6 CBRGC Meeting Guest Speaker

Join us at the March 6 meeting as we welcome **Richard Agni**, a longtime CBRGC member and emerald specialist. Richard has spent years sourcing and selling emeralds, with firsthand experience traveling to Colombia's renowned mining regions. He will share insights into Colombian emeralds, his experiences acquiring them, and what makes these gems so unique. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from his expertise and see some stunning emeralds up close!

Meeting Minutes—February 6, 2025

1. Call to Order

- Time: 6PM
- Quorum met: Yes

2. Welcome & Announcements

- President's Greetings: Provided by Andrew Pepper
- Visitors Introduced
- Important Club Announcement:
 - Rock Swap with Melbourne Club—We could have a table March 29th at Wickham Park (9-3)
 - Phishing email

3. Approval of Minutes

- Presented by: Andrew
- Minutes read from previous meeting: Date of January 2, 2025
- Motion to approve: Erleen
- Seconded by: Tom
- Vote outcome: Approved

4. Reports

- Treasurer's Report
 - Rock and Gem show finance reporting: 80:20 pay outs have not happened yet
 - Financial Summary for January: Full Report Available Upon Request

4. Reports (continued)

- Membership Report
 - Current Member Count: 62 members
 - New Members This Month: 19
 - Reminder About Dues & Renewals
- Shop & Workshop Updates
 - Shop Hours & Supervisor Updates
- Classes revamp/workshop
 - Maintenance or Tool Updates
- Gem Show / Events Update
 - Erleen to have a meeting on the 19th about the Show

5. Old & New Business

- Key Items for Discussion
 - Discussion of by law revamp
 - Social media outreach
 - Social outreach with vets and children programs
 - Revamp program for competing with members in national association
 - T-shirts, hats and formal vests

6. Adjournment of Official Meeting

- Meeting adjourned: 6:47PM

Minutes prepared by Andrew Pepper

Upcoming Events

- **March 6**—Monthly Club Meeting—6PM at Merritt Island Public Library
- **March 15-16**—Spring Rock & Mineral Sale (see inset below with details)
- **March 29**—SM&GS Rock Swap (see inset below with details)
- **April 10-13**—Rucks Pit Crystal Clam Dig—This is a limited one-time opportunity to excavate crystalline fossil clams from Rucks Pit in Okeechobee, Florida. Hosted by Pacific GeoLab, you can dig the entire day and are guaranteed to find plenty of crystallized clams, and possibly other crystalized specimens such as snails or conchs. Visit <https://pacificgeolab.com> for additional information on this unique opportunity.
- **April 26-27**—Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show hosted by the Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society—Florida Armory National Guard (2809 S. Fern Creek Avenue, Orlando)—Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Throughout the year**—The William Holland School of Lapidary Arts (<https://lapidaryschoolregistration.org>) offers a variety of courses on lapidary and jewelry arts all year long.

Spring Rock & Mineral Sale

This sale features a lifetime collection of Earth's treasures! Whether you're a collector, lapidary artist, or just love beautiful stones, you won't want to miss this event.

Date: Saturday & Sunday, March 15 & 16

Time: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM (rain or shine)

Location: 2251 SE Montauk Street, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

NOTE: SALES ARE CASH ONLY

Explore a massive selection, including:

- Unique Specimens & Collectibles
- Fluorite, Quartz Clusters, Geodes, Opals & Gemstones
- Fossils, Megalodon Teeth, Petrified Wood, Tampa Bay Coral
- Agates, Cabochon & Faceting Rough, Florida Calcite Clams
- Dig Through Bulk Bins & Find Hidden Treasures!

8th Annual CM&GS Rock Swap

This is a fantastic event for rock and gem enthusiasts hosted by the Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society!

Date: Saturday, March 29, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Pavilion #4, Wickham Park (east side of the second north lake, just past the dog play area)

Admission: FREE for the public

Vendor Information:

- Vendor Fee: \$30 (must be a member of CM&GS or Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club)
- The first 14 vendors can reserve an 8-foot picnic table under the pavilion
- Additional vendors can tailgate or set up in the parking and grass areas
- Setup begins at 8:30 AM
- To reserve a space, contact Scott Bellinger at 321-984-8908 (leave a message, you will be contacted).

Come browse an incredible selection of rocks, minerals, gems, and handmade jewelry—there's something for everyone! Don't miss this fun-filled day of rock swapping, shopping, and community.

Meet Your 2025 CBRGC Officers & Directors

As we continue our series of introductions, we're excited to spotlight not only our 2025 officers but also our board of directors! These dedicated members bring a wealth of experience, creativity, and passion for lapidary and jewelry arts. Whether they're rockhounding, silversmithing, or shaping raw materials into beautiful creations, their leadership helps keep our club thriving. Join us in celebrating the talented individuals guiding us through another inspiring year of learning and exploration!

Jennifer Davison—Treasurer

We are pleased to introduce Dr. Jennifer Davison, our club's 2025 Treasurer, bringing her passion for lapidary arts and keen attention to detail to the role.

From Storms to Stones—Jennifer's path to lapidary is as fascinating as the stones she works with. As an atmospheric scientist, she specialized in radar meteorology, studying the intricate workings of the Earth's atmosphere. But her love for the natural world extends beyond the sky—deep into the very rocks beneath our feet.

A Lifelong Love for Rocks—Jennifer's fascination with rocks began in childhood, but it wasn't until she moved to Florida that she reignited her passion. A visit to a CBRGC Gem & Mineral Show rekindled her early interest, and she soon immersed herself in the world of lapidary arts. She joined CBRGC in 2017 and is also a member of the Canaveral Gem and Mineral Society. Growing up around woodworking hobbyists, Jennifer was drawn to the idea of crafting with stone in a similar way—shaping raw materials into something beautiful and enduring.

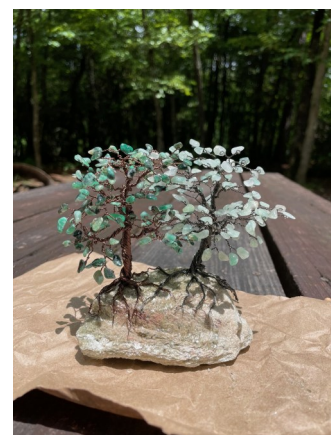
Exploring the Art of Lapidary—Jennifer honed her lapidary skills through club workshops, developing a deep appreciation for agate, boulder opal, and dendritic common opal. She prefers working with natural, unaltered materials and enjoys the thrill of treasure hunting through bins of raw stones, always searching for that hidden gem.

The Creative Process—For Jennifer, lapidary is more than a craft—it's a meditative and methodical process. She emphasizes patience, as working with stone takes time and care. One of her most meaningful projects was creating gem trees for her parents' 50th wedding anniversary—a labor of love reflecting her passion for both family and artistry.

Lessons from Lapidary—Jennifer sees lapidary as a metaphor for life—taking something rough and overlooked, then patiently revealing its hidden beauty. Her advice? *"Lapidary is a zen art. Be patient. Enjoy the process. The transformation of a stone mirrors our own personal growth—slow, intentional, and incredibly rewarding."*

Beyond the Workshop—When not shaping stones, Jennifer enjoys gardening—particularly growing edible and native plants. She's a member of the Brevard Tropical Fruit Club and finds joy in cultivating both plants and creativity. She and her husband, Doug, have been married for 26 years and have two children: an 18-year-old son at the University of Florida and an 11-year-old daughter.

Looking Ahead—Jennifer continues to explore and refine her craft, always eager to learn and share her knowledge. Whether rockhounding, discovering new materials, or mentoring others, her passion for lapidary remains as strong as ever—an inspiration to anyone looking to reconnect with a childhood passion.



Next up in our line-up of introductions...Richard Prickett—Director

Meet Your 2025 CBRGC Officers & Directors

Let's continue getting to know the leaders shaping our club's future!

Richard Prickett—Director

Richard Prickett has spent a lifetime blending technical expertise with hands-on craftsmanship. From a distinguished career in aerospace and computer engineering to a deep passion for lapidary arts, he has always been driven by curiosity and precision. Whether working on space shuttle operations, tracking rockets, or faceting gemstones, Richard brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to everything he does.

Aerospace & Engineering Career

Richard Prickett's journey in aerospace began in high school when he worked as a student summer hire at the Space Center, assisting in "Procedures Control" for the Apollo Moon rocket. By age 26, he had become Senior Computer over operations in Launch Control for the Space Shuttle. His career spanned several decades in high-tech roles, including serving as a Honeywell Large Scale Computer Engineer in 1980 and later as General Manager for Management Computer Control Centers Corp. from 1990 to 2002. After selling his interest, he transitioned into Launch Pad Video Surveillance Controller and Optics Lab Operations, focusing on missile and Shuttle tracking. He also specialized in lens grinding, mirrored optics repair, lapidary, and vacuum coatings for NASA and the Air Force Test Range. Richard retired in 2011 at the age of 57.

Journey into Lapidary Arts

A lifelong rockhound, Richard's passion for collecting and prospecting began in childhood—he never went anywhere without picking up rocks. In 2015, a visit to the CBRGC Kiwanis Rock Show with his wife led to a turning point when Sandy won the Grand Prize Raffle. Curious about how the prize was made, he joined the Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club, taking faceting classes with Bill Dewey and silversmithing with John Catana. Following Bill Dewey's passing, Richard has stepped up to teach faceting and plans to expand his skills at the William Holland Lapidary School.

Additional Interests & Involvement

Beyond lapidary arts, Richard remains deeply involved in aerospace as Vice Chairman for Space Frontier Operations (SFO.org) and a member of the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies. A dedicated telescope enthusiast, he enjoys astronomy, rocket tracking, and a variety of hands-on hobbies, including electronics, mechanics, and numismatics.

Stay tuned for more introductions in next month's newsletter.

A Heartfelt THANK YOU for Another Successful Expo

On February 1 and 2, the Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club hosted its annual show at Kiwanis Island, Florida. The event featured 24 vendors showcasing a wide variety of treasures, including rocks, slabs, mineral specimens, gemstones, findings, and finished jewelry—something for everyone, even the kids! Pete's handmade sluice and spinning wheel were (as always) a big hit, keeping the little ones entertained throughout the weekend.

Once again, the show was a resounding success. The funds raised help cover the club's yearly rent and other expenses, ensuring we can continue offering workshops, classes, and events for our members.

This success wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers. Your hard work made all the difference, and we want to recognize the many tasks you took on to make the event run smoothly, such as:

Thursday: Loading the truck with all necessary supplies.

Friday: Unloading the truck, rearranging tables, taping the floor to provide lighting for vendors, and setting up admissions, grand prizes, membership, and the kitchen.

Saturday: Managing coffee and food for vendors, admissions, the sluice, the spinning wheel, and the silent auction.

Sunday (Closing Day): Packing up, taking down tables in the gym and annex, assisting vendors—including one member who helped an elderly vendor pack up their display and load their car—sweeping the floors, and unloading supplies at the workshop and storage building.

Monday: Roz and Pete transported the sluice and remaining items home, returned to Kiwanis Island to clean taped areas, and later returned the rental vehicle.

It was a huge undertaking, and we may have missed listing some of the many tasks necessary to make it happen. Without each and every one of you, the show would not have been possible. We extend my deepest gratitude to all of you who contributed your time and effort.

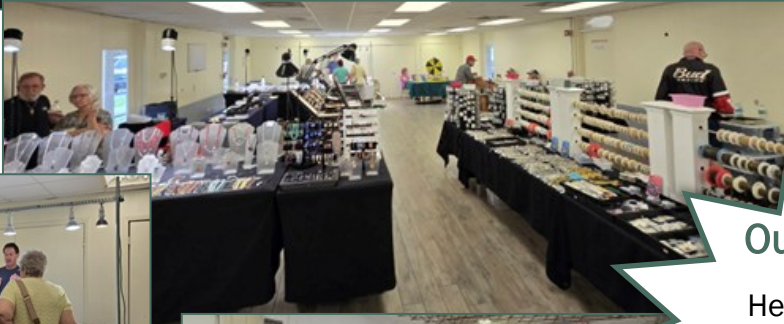
Of course, the work never truly stops! Planning for next year's show is already underway. We want your feedback—what worked, what didn't, and how we can improve. Please join us for a meeting at the shop on February 19 at 12:30 PM, or feel free to share your thoughts with me directly. I promise I won't take anything personally!

Thank you again for your support,
Erleen & Roz (2025 Expo Co-Chairs)



A special thank you to both
Erleen and Roz,
who worked all year to organize
this important event for our Club.

Highlights of Our 2025 Expo



Our Vendors Loved

- Helpful and friendly staff
- Well organized
- The CBRGC booth
- Good sales
- Delicious breakfast

Our Grand Prize Winners

Hand-painted fish
Rose M



Color-change tourmalite
Tristen K

3D dragon
Terri S



Unleash your Creativity

Explore CBRGC's Hands-On Classes

Are you ready to expand your skills and creativity? The Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club (CBRGC) offers a diverse range of courses exclusively for our members! Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your technique, our classes provide a fantastic opportunity to learn from experienced instructors and create beautiful, handcrafted pieces.

Each course is taught by a volunteer member who is recognized for their expertise in a particular technique. Classes may be conducted over one or several sessions (depending on topic), with a goal of ensuring that students receive comprehensive instruction and leave with finished pieces to showcase their new skills.

Some courses offer supply kits for purchase, while others provide a list of required materials. No need to worry about tools—CBRGC provides access to all necessary tools and consumables, making it easier for you to focus on learning and creating.

Interested in a class? Visit <https://centralbrevardgems.com> and click on “Classes” in the menu bar to view the current offerings. If you find a class that sparks your interest, use our contact form with the class title in the subject line to inquire about availability. While some classes require a minimum number of students, many of our instructors are happy to arrange one-on-one sessions. Don't hesitate to reach out!

Take the leap and start your next adventure in jewelry-making and lapidary arts today!

From Learning to Masterpiece

See What Our Members Have Created

Nothing showcases the value of hands-on learning better than the stunning creations made in our CBRGC classes! From to polished gemstones to shining silver settings, our members are turning new skills into incredible works of art. Take a look at these recent projects and get inspired to join a class of your own!



Pendant & Ring



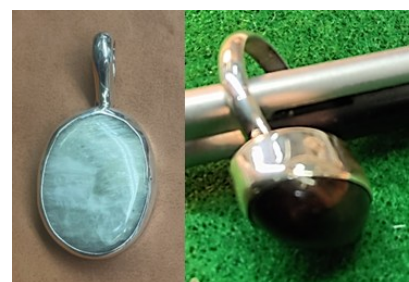
Fused Glass



Cabochon & 2 Pendants



Ring & Pendant



Pendant & Ring

Connect, Create & Learn

Join the CBRGC Members-Only Facebook Group

Did you know that CBRGC has a private Facebook group just for members? While the page has traditionally been used as an announcement board, we'd love to see it grow into a vibrant community where members can:



- Ask questions and get advice on techniques
- Troubleshoot challenges with fellow artists and rock & gem enthusiasts
- Share photos of their latest creations
- Inspire & learn from one another to elevate their craft

If you're not already a member of this group, simply search for "Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club" on Facebook and request to join. Let's make this space a go-to hub for sharing knowledge, creativity, and passion for lapidary arts!

Silversmithing Instructor Opportunity

The club continues to see strong interest in silversmithing classes, and we're looking for experienced members who might be interested in sharing their skills by teaching. If you have a passion for silversmithing and enjoy guiding others in their creative journey, we'd love to hear from you! For more details or to express interest, please contact Roz Mestre (321-431-0159).

A New Approach to Faceting: Start with Glass

CBRGC's faceting instructor, **Rick Prickett**, is introducing an exciting new approach for beginners. Instead of jumping straight into cutting gemstones, new faceting students will first learn by cutting a **glass prism**.

Why start with glass? It's easier to cut and polish, allowing students to quickly grasp the fundamentals of faceting without the added challenges of harder (and more expensive) materials. Plus, once someone completes their first prism, they're often hooked—ready to take on the precision and artistry of gemstone faceting!

This method ensures beginners build confidence and develop essential skills before moving on to more complex cuts. If you've ever been curious about faceting, now's the perfect time to give it a try!



Did you know?

Rock & Gem Magazine is a fantastic resource for rockhounds and lapidary enthusiasts! From stone tumbling techniques and top rockhounding locations to expert insights on gems and minerals, this publication covers it all. Stay up to date by subscribing to their weekly newsletter, packed with valuable tips, articles, and industry news—delivered straight to your inbox. Check it out at <https://www.rockngem.com>

Why did the rockhouser throw his ore samples away?

He took them for granite.

Rock Chronicles

Unearthing Nature's Treasures

Welcome to another installment of our *Rock of the Month* series, where we explore the fascinating mineralogical, historical, and metaphysical significance of some of the earth's most captivating stones. This month, we turn our focus to two strikingly different yet equally intriguing minerals.



Quartz—Master Healer of the Mineral World

Quartz, one of the most abundant and essential minerals on the planet, has been revered across civilizations for its clarity, durability, and energetic properties. Found in diverse geological formations, from deep volcanic pockets to sedimentary deposits, quartz occurs in nearly every environment on Earth. Significant sources include the rugged mountains of Brazil, the vast caves of Arkansas, and the mineral-rich sands of Madagascar. It is a cornerstone in both industrial applications and crystal healing practices, playing a key role in watches, electronics, and optical equipment. Whether it's the luminous transparency of rock crystal, the smoky depth of smoky quartz, or the gentle hues of rose quartz, this mineral continues to captivate geologists, jewelers, and metaphysical practitioners alike.

Malachite—The Green Guardian

In contrast, malachite is a copper carbonate hydroxide mineral with an unmistakable verdant hue and intricate banded patterns. This mineral has been cherished since antiquity, not only for its aesthetic appeal but also for its deep historical significance—having been ground into pigments for ancient art and used in protective amulets. Found in the oxidized zones of copper deposits, malachite is sourced from some of the world's richest mineral regions, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia's Ural Mountains, and the copper mines of the Southwestern United States. Often intertwined with azurite, malachite creates striking mineralogical combinations that are as scientifically fascinating as they are visually stunning. Despite its relative softness, its presence in the natural world speaks to transformation and resilience, earning it a special place in both scientific study and spiritual symbolism.





February

- Jeff Anderson
- David Estes
- Hannah Morse
- Holly Young

March

- Roz Mestre
- Chazz Prickett

Workshop Donations Needed

Our workshop could use some basic supplies—any and all donations of the following are welcome:

- nail brushes
- 8-12 ounce water bottles
- facial & bathroom tissue
- white & pastel copy paper

Every little bit helps, and your support goes a long way in keeping our creative space well equipped.

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:	Mario Vento	(321)593-2958	rokhounds@gmail.com
1st Vice President:	Vacant		
2nd Vice President:	Tom Brown	(321)917-3602	tbrown2045@cfl.rr.com
Secretary:	Andrew Pepper	(321)416-7711	pepper_andrew@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Jennifer Davison	(502)930-5870	jdavison@me.com

Directors

Erleen Estes	2025-27	(321)514-8775	erleen9@gmail.com
John Catana	2024-26	(321)633-4366	jcatana5@gmail.com
Richard Prickett	2025-27	(321)698-9359	mancomp@bellsouth.net
Carol Warner	2024-25	(407)468-1333	basinstreetstudio@outlook.com



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

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



Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club Inc.

2025 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
P.O. Box 542742
Merritt Island, Florida 32954