



## *From our President*

As I sit here typing this out, my mind wanders to the ebb & flow of time itself. Not being very mobile does that to a person sometimes. The weather is hot & cold, and very Florida for the time of year. I am trying to walk as much as I can and am awaiting my next doctors appointment, which got pushed ahead to the end of the month...YAY!

But I remain optimistic that life will continue as will all of you, and that I will be back among my friends, my second family, the CBRGC...that means all of you!!

The crate with all my items from AZ has arrived and with any luck we'll be opening it the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I can't wait to remember all that I bought, and to show it to all of you. It will be a story to tell... complete with the embarrassing parts!!

I miss all of you and hope you are all doing well. I have faith that all will resolve itself sooner rather than later—until then, **KEEP ON ROCKIN'!!**

**Mario Vento**  
2025 President

### Key Dates

- **April 3**—Monthly meeting at Merritt Island Public Library
  - **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

## April 3 CBRGC Meeting Guest Speaker

At our April 3 meeting, Michele Huntington will take us on a journey through her travels in Utah, a state famous for its breathtaking national parks and rich geological treasures. While searching for local stones in rock shops, she encountered a dazzling array of minerals, from obsidian and trilobites to jaspers, wonderstone, and geodes.

Michele will have samples of the rocks she collected during her trip, as well as samples of bacon opal from the region, giving us a hands-on look at Utah's hidden gemstone treasures!

# Meeting Minutes—March 6, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Comments from Tom about Mario's condition: He had an accident when a walker chair did not lock fully, and he fell. He injured his back.

## President's welcome and opening notes:

Quorum was met. Tom delivered Presidents notes and notified members of Mario's health as a reason why he is not present.

## Approval of minutes

The minutes are currently being revised and will be available next month for review and approval.

## Officer Reports:

### First Vice President: Absent position

### Second Vice President (Membership): Tom

Membership 69 members, 2 junior, 2 life, 22 new, 38 renewals, 4 returning.

### Treasurer Report: Jennifer

Financial report: \$440 short because it has not deposited into the bank yet. Total income \$9722.30, total expenses \$8686.99. Overall total \$1035.31.

Show finances: Taxes have not been done from the show yet. Total income is \$12,879.91 and expenses \$7200.23 Expenses, and Overall total \$5679.68

2025 Budget: Things to check out Liability insurance is not adding up. Read the budget report by line item. Net negative \$33 of 2025 budget. 2025 approval motion by Carol, second by Rick. All approved.

### Newsletter: Carol

Private Facebook page. Asking for people to join and create a community of knowledge sharing and encouraging members to learn and engage.

## Committee And Class Updates:

Classes: (Roz) update: Sign up sheets are present on the table for classes available (CAB, Silversmithing, glass, faceting). Additional classes are available but will need to be arranged (Chainmail, wire wrapping, etc.) Tom will be teaching the cabbing class. If you want to take a class. Silversmithing, glass fusing cab, wire wrap, faceting, chainmail, *(cont'd in column 2)*...

## Committee And Class Updates: *(cont'd from column 1)*

Japanese braiding, Michele will be available for Opal class in April. If you have taken cabbing, you need to demonstrate proficiency in cabbing before taking opal class. Safety class is required before all workshop related classes or open shop work can be done.

## Supervisors/Shop Schedule:

No additions. Need new supervisors.

## Workshop Committee:

Sunday to clean the 6" saw. New Lap Saws. They will be locked up when not in use.

Workshop Repairs/Maintenance: No new updates.

## Gem Show:

Erleen will set the date to have a Gem shop meeting. She is under the weather and will send a note out.

## Old Business:

Social media and website updates: It is in the works.

Rock Swap we will have a table. If others are interested in a table, it is a \$30 fee. At Wickham Park

## New Business:

Social Outreach interest

Guest (Gallan Spencer) comment: from out of town, is part of a rock club at his home. Donating Rocks for our club. Look up rock clubs in the federation.

Rick talked about Faceting. He has an idea; the first stone is the hardest one to learn from. Showing the photocell prism that it will be used in the teaching of the faceting class.

Jennifer showed some of the malachite and quartz from her collection to demonstrate.

15-minute break start at 6:50.

Presentation by Richard Agni – Columbia / Emeralds.

Motion was made to adjourn at 1936 by Elizabeth, second by Elvor and was passed by majority.

## Next meeting :

The next meeting will be April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

## Upcoming Events

- **April 3**—Monthly Club Meeting—6PM at Merritt Island Public Library
- **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. (See inset below for additional details.)
- **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.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY**

**THE ROCK, MINERAL, GEM,  
AND JEWELRY SHOW**

**APRIL 26-27, 2025**  
**SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM**  
**SUNDAY 9AM - 4PM**

**ENJOY DEMONSTRATIONS, KID  
ACTIVITIES, DOOR PRIZES, AND  
SILENT AUCTIONS. PLEASE VISIT  
THE MANY VENDORS OFFERING  
GEMSTONES, MINERALS,  
CRYSTALS, AND HAND MADE  
JEWELRY FOR PURCHASE.**

**LOCATION:  
FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD  
ARMORY,  
2809 S. FERNCREEK AVE.,  
ORLANDO, FL 32806**

**Admission Price:**  
Ages 16 and up \$6.00 per day  
Ages 6-15 \$3.00 per day



**[WWW.CFMGS.ORG](http://WWW.CFMGS.ORG)**  
contact email: [cfmgsociety@gmail.com](mailto:cfmgsociety@gmail.com)

## Meet Your 2025 CBRGC Officers & Directors

As we conclude our introductions of the club's leadership, we're proud to feature our final two 2025 directors. These dedicated members bring diverse skills, experience, and enthusiasm to our community, helping to keep our club active and inspiring. Overall, the club's leadership supports everything from rockhounding and lapidary arts to silversmithing and jewelry design. In future issues, we'll focus on highlighting other club members. Join us in recognizing the individuals guiding us through another exciting year of creativity and learning!

### Erleen Estes—Director

#### Aerospace Career and Move to Florida

Erleen Estes, a retired professional from United Space Alliance, played a vital role during the Shuttle era. As a lead in Desktop Services, she was one of two people responsible for preparing and maintaining astronauts' laptops for each launch. Her first attempt at testing astronaut software sent the simulated vehicle miles off target, but she successfully docked on her second try.

She and her husband, David Earl Estes, Sr., had always dreamed of living in Florida and working at Kennedy Space Center. Shortly after their honeymoon, they made the move, and within a week, Erleen was hired—becoming the only woman in a team of 126 employees at the time.

#### Family, Hobbies, and Passion for Jewelry

The couple raised their son, J.R., a competitive swimmer specializing in breaststroke and freestyle. As a family, they enjoyed fishing tournaments, golfing, and bowling.

Introduced to the Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club (CBRGC) by Suze Ruiz, Erleen helped transition the club into its Merritt Island shop. Over the years, she has taken every class offered, sold her work, and served in multiple leadership roles, including President, Show Chairman, and Vendor Chairman.

#### Jewelry Education and Design Approach

In 2013, Erleen earned a Jewelry Design and Repair degree from Penn Foster College. The online program required weekly tests and ten hands-on projects, with her final project video later selected as a teaching aid.

While she prefers working with silver, she often prototypes in copper to refine techniques. Her creative process includes sketching, a 24-hour review for fresh perspective, and careful selection of materials. She stays current through trade shows, webinars, and classes, sourcing materials from vendors at events, FDJ, and Rio.

One of her most treasured pieces is an obsidian stone wrapped in gold-filled wire, made during her first wire-wrapping session with Michele. She once received a \$1,000 offer for it but chose to keep it.

#### Advice for Aspiring Designers

Erleen encourages beginners to take classes, embrace imperfections, and develop their own style. She reminds aspiring designers that handcrafted jewelry is valued for its uniqueness and personal touch rather than absolute perfection.

### Next up in our line-up of introductions...Carol Warner—Director

## Meet Your 2025 CBRGC Officers & Directors

### Carol Warner—Director

#### **A Career in Hospitality and a Passion for Creativity**

Carol Warner brings a wealth of experience to the Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club (CBRGC), having spent her career in human resources, employee relations, and internal communications within the hospitality industry. Now retired, she enjoys dedicating her time to creativity, learning, and mentorship in the world of jewelry-making.

#### **A Journey into Jewelry Design**

Carol's journey into jewelry design began when her sister introduced her to memory wire beaded bracelets. Though work obligations limited her early exploration, the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to reignite her interest. With encouragement from a neighbor-turned-friend, she rediscovered beading and quickly became fascinated by the process of transforming simple materials into unique, one-of-a-kind accessories.

Since joining CBRGC a year and a half ago, Carol has expanded her skills by taking classes offered through the club. She primarily works with copper, drawn to its affordability, versatility, and the rich variety of finishes it can achieve. From warm patinas to hammered textures, she enjoys experimenting with techniques to create durable, beautifully finished pieces. She also appreciates copper's therapeutic qualities, which are believed to aid with inflammation and overall well-being.

#### **Staying Inspired and Embracing Innovation**

Carol stays current with jewelry trends and innovations through blogs, online discussion groups, and video tutorials. Her creative process is often sparked by everyday inspirations—nature, geometric shapes, or even leftover materials from past projects. She enjoys problem-solving through design, allowing ideas to develop over time before bringing them to life.

#### **Life Beyond Jewelry-Making**

Beyond jewelry-making, Carol enjoys reading, baking bread, playing pickleball, and spending time with her husband, three children, and twelve grandchildren.

#### **Advice to Aspiring Artists**

Her advice to aspiring artists? "Be fearless—try new things and be willing to learn from others."

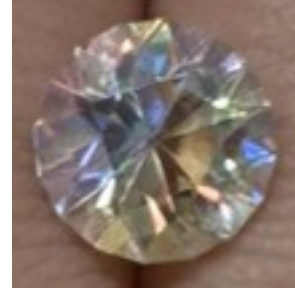
**Stay tuned for more introductions in future newsletters.**

## From Beginner to Artisan: Celebrating Our Members' Creations

Our CBRGC classes are more than just lessons—they're a gateway to creativity! With each technique learned, our members are crafting unique and beautiful pieces, from dazzling polished gemstones to intricate silver settings. Their hard work and dedication shine through in every masterpiece. Take a look at these stunning projects, and let them inspire you to start your own creative journey!



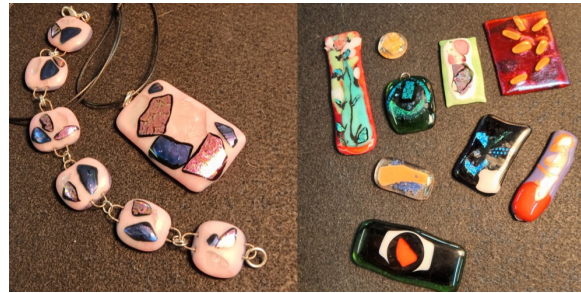
*Laguna Agate Pendant & Ring  
by Laura*



*Faceted Glass Prism  
by Ange*



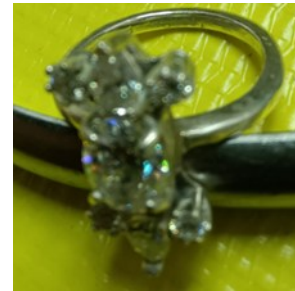
*Silver Bracelet  
by Karen*



*Fused Glass  
by Arlene*



*Lapis Ring & Moss Agate Pendant  
by Shani*



*Lab-Grown Diamond  
Ring by Kathy*

## Unleash your Creativity with CBRGC Classes Explore CBRGC's Hands-On Classes

Ready to learn new skills and create stunning pieces? CBRGC offers hands-on classes for members of all skill levels, taught by expert volunteers. We provide the tools—you bring the creativity!

Explore current offerings at <https://centralbrevardgems.com> under “Classes” and inquire about availability. Many instructors offer group and one-on-one sessions. Don't miss your chance to dive into the world of jewelry-making and lapidary arts!

# Rock Chronicles

## Unearthing Nature's Treasures

Our *Rock of the Month* series continues! Each month, we delve into the mineralogical, historical, and metaphysical significance of Earth's most captivating stones. This edition highlights two uniquely fascinating minerals—each with its own story to tell.

### Jasper—The Nurturing Stone

Jasper, an opaque variety of chalcedony, is celebrated for its earthy tones and intricate patterns. From the rusty reds of brecciated jasper to the scenic landscapes of picture jasper, each piece is a unique masterpiece. Jasper is commonly found in regions like Australia, Brazil, and the United States. Jasper has been revered since antiquity, often carved into seals and talismans.

Known as the "nurturing stone," it's believed to offer support during times of stress and promote a sense of stability and grounding.



### Hematite—The Metallic Marvel

Hematite's metallic luster and rich, silvery-gray appearance make it an eye-catching addition to any collection. Composed of iron oxide, this mineral has been used as a pigment since prehistoric times. Hematite is commonly found in Brazil, Australia, and the Lake Superior region of the United States.

Polished hematite is often mistaken for metal and is commonly used in jewelry. Beyond its aesthetic value, hematite is believed to ground energy and foster a sense of stability.



## 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).

### *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 wire-wrapped pendant go to therapy?**

*It had too many twisted relationships!*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## *April Birthdays*

Jessica Barbini

Justen Brooks

Rhonda Crowder

Philip Howard

## Workshop Donations Needed

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

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

## 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	rokounds@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
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](http://www.southeastfed.org)

Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - [www.amfed.org](http://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