



The Creative Vein

Inspiring discovery and artistry



President's Message

Hello Rockhounds & Lapidary Lovers,

I hope you've all had a wonderful summer—whether traveling, enjoying family time, or just simply keeping cool in our Florida heat. While our meetings took a summer break, things have been anything but quiet at the club!

Summer Recap...

Our shop crew has been hard at work cleaning, reorganizing, and refreshing the space. We reopened on July 2, and are still making improvements to keep our tools and workspace in top shape. A big thanks to everyone who pitched in!

Looking Ahead...

We'll be kicking off our fall season on **Wednesday, September 4**, with guest speaker and member **Rolanda Powell**, who will share her rockhounding journey favorite finds.

This fall is also a great time to get back into the shop and try something new. From cabbing and faceting to silversmithing, chain mail, and more, our instructors are ready to guide you. Check inside for details—we'd love to see you in a class soon!

If you've been rockhounding or working on projects this summer, bring a few along to share at the meeting on the 4th. Whether it's a polished cab, a wire wrap, or a project you finally conquered, we'd love to see it.

Looking forward to a year filled with creativity, learning, and—of course—rocks! See you September 4!

Dr. Jennifer Davison
Acting President

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Key Dates

August 28—Chain Mail Class (6-9pm at the Shop)

September 4—First Fall Meeting (6-8pm at Merritt Island Public Library)

Upcoming Workshop—August 28

Japanese 12-in-2 Chainmail Bracelet

Thursday, August 28, from 6–9 PM at the Shop (407 Imperial Boulevard, Cape Canaveral)

Missed our first chainmail class (held in July)? No problem—you can absolutely jump into this one! While your skills with jump rings will grow with practice, this weave is still friendly for beginners, and very kid-friendly.

This intricate pattern uses **two ring sizes** to make a dimensional, eye-catching bracelet. Choose from:

- **Stretchy Bracelet** – made with rubber rings and regular jump rings (*photo left*)
- **Clasp Bracelet** – same size rings, finished with a clasp (*photo right*)

Why aluminum? We use anodized aluminum in these early classes—it's lightweight, colorful, more affordable, and easier on your hands while you're building jump-ring skills.

Details:

- Ring sizes: 16swg 1/4" rings + 18swg 5/32" rings
- Kits: \$7 in anodized aluminum (choice of colors), includes all rings & clasp
- Bring: Two pairs of smooth-jawed pliers (no ridges inside) – club has some available
- Please arrive early if purchasing a kit so we can start promptly at 6 PM

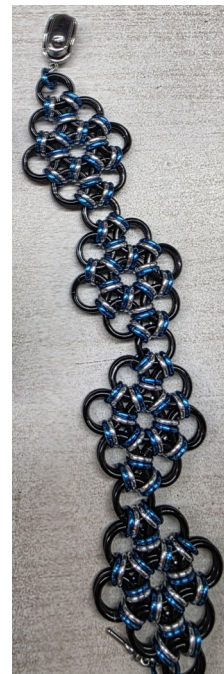
Cost:

- Members: \$20
- Visitors: \$25 (includes \$5 for temporary membership)

Have friends or family who might like to join?

Invite them along! It's a fun night together, and a great way for people to get started with jewelry-making. And if they decide to join the club later, the \$5 paid for temporary membership will be applied to the annual membership cost.

Note: If bringing your own rings, we recommend ordering from any of these vendors: Ring Lord, Metal Designz, Chainmail Joe, or Joshua Diliberto. Please note that these vendors have different delivery times to ensure that your rings will arrive in time for the class.



Spotlight on July's Chain Mail Class...

Our first chain mail workshop in July was a great success! Seven members and six guests (friends and family, including two pre-teens) joined in to learn the basics, and the shop was buzzing with energy. Everyone walked away with new skills—with plenty of laughs along the way. We're excited to keep the momentum going with monthly chain mail sessions (as well as workshops on other skillsets as we move into fall).

Guest Speaker—September 4 Meeting

We're excited to announce that at our first meeting back, club member **Rolanda Powell** will be sharing her rockhounding journey and passion for gems and minerals.

She'll talk about how she first got interested in rockhounding, some of the fascinating sites she has visited, and the unique finds she's made along the way. Rolanda will also share her love for opals, including stories from her recent trip to William Holland. She'll explain what drew her to join the Rock & Gem Club—the joy of meeting new people, learning from others, and exchanging ideas. In addition, she'll touch on her interest in the metaphysical aspects of gems and minerals, which inspired her to start an online business. Her talk will explore the origins, science, and mythology of various stones, and she'll introduce her new eBook for those curious about this topic but unsure where to begin.

Whether you're new to collecting or a seasoned rockhound, you'll come away inspired—and maybe itching to grab your tools and head out on your own hunt.

Curious to learn more before the meeting? Check out her ebook and blogs to see some of the gems and stories she'll be sharing! Links:

Ebook—<https://mysticascension.store/products/essentials-of-crystals-ebook>

Blogs—<https://mysticascension.store/blogs/news>



Rock of the Month—Sardonyx

Sardonyx, the oldest August birthstone, has been treasured for thousands of years. Roman soldiers wore it for courage and protection, and today its striking bands of reddish-brown sard and white or black onyx still make it a favorite for cameos, carvings, and jewelry. Known for promoting discipline, integrity, and courage, sardonyx can be found in India, Brazil, Madagascar, and parts of the U.S., including Oregon and Colorado. Polished, its layered beauty is a delight for rockhounds and collectors alike.



Classes Are Back—Time to Learn, Create and Grow!

Our fall classes are about to take off, and there's something for everyone—whether you're brand new to lapidary arts or ready to expand your skills. Classes are scheduled on a **first-come, first-served basis** and typically run **\$20 per session** (some courses may require more than one session). Materials are an additional fee, but you'll know in advance what's needed so you can come prepared. Here's what's in the works for September and beyond:

- **Cabbing (Lapidary Basics)** – Learn how to turn a rough stone into a polished cabochon. As part of the course, you'll start with an obsidian cab (a forgiving, beginner-friendly stone) and then move on to a second stone to build on your new skills. Both stones are provided by the shop. Classes are available during most open shop hours—scheduled in advance with instructor.
- **Silversmithing** – Start your journey in working with silver! Classes will re-start September 3, covering cutting, shaping, soldering, and polishing silver, with projects such as rings, bracelets, and pendants. (See box on this page for additional details.)
- **Faceting** – Unlock the magic of precision faceting! You'll learn how to cut and polish facets on a gemstone using specialized equipment to bring out sparkle and brilliance. (See box on this page for additional details.)
- **Chain Mail** – Continuing on the **last Thursday of each month**, these sessions build your skills with new weaves and projects each time. Our next class is August 28 (see article in this newsletter for details).
- **Gem Trees** – Discover how to twist wire and beads into beautiful miniature “gem trees.” A relaxing, creative project with lots of room for personal style.
- **Beading (Bracelet Basics)** – Make a bracelet using jewelry wire, beads, and findings. Learn stringing, crimping, and finishing techniques—a great foundation for future beading projects.
- **Copper Cuff Bracelets** – Learn basic metalsmithing techniques with copper, including forming, texturing, and finishing.

Want to take a class? Email us at info@centralbrevardrockandgem.com with the classes you're interested in. We'll follow up with details and scheduling options.

Silversmithing—Shape to Shine

- Small class size: Max 2 students per session.
- Format: Three 4-hour sessions (bracelet, ring, pendant) at \$20 per session. Take them in any order, one at a time.
- When: Wednesdays 9-1 or select Saturdays.
- Materials:
 - Silver kit covering all three projects available for about \$165 (price may vary with silver market).
 - Copper can be used instead of silver (bring your own).
 - Provide your own cabochons (some available for purchase at the club).

Faceting—Learn to Sparkle

- Small class size: 1 student per session.
- Format: About 4 sessions (3 hours each), at \$20 per session.
- Materials: Two stone included—first a practice glass stone, then a real gemstone.
- Support: If you need extra time to finish, coaching is available during shop hours for the regular \$10 shop fee.