



The Creative Vein

Inspiring discovery and artistry



President's Message

Hello Rockhounds & Lapidary Friends,

One of the things I treasure most about our club is the way we come together—not just to cut stones or polish cabs, but to share ideas, experiment, and inspire one another. Creativity is always more fun when it's shared, and I love seeing how each person's "trial and error" sparks fresh excitement for the rest of us. Whether you're a brand-new member or a long-time lapidary enthusiast, you're part of a circle of encouragement and belonging.

This month brings plenty of opportunities to connect—classes in the shop, our October meeting and, of course, time simply spent learning side-by-side. I encourage you to jump in where you can, and maybe even bring a friend along to see what we're about.

And as you'll read inside, our club elections are just around the corner. Leadership is truly a team effort, and it's a chance for each of us to help shape the future of CBRGC. Please consider how you might take part—whether by stepping into a role, or by showing up to vote and support those who do.

Here's to another season of fun, creativity, and community. I can't wait to see what we'll make together!

Dr. Jennifer Davison
Acting President

Club Elections Ahead!

*Interested in helping shape next year's board?
Nominations are underway—see page 2 for details on how to get involved.*

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Key Dates

October 2—Monthly Club Meeting
(6-8pm at Merritt Island Public
Library)

October 30—Chain Mail Class (6-
9pm at the Shop)

November 4—Election of 2026
Officers

November 15—Fall Picnic

Help Shape the Future of our Club: 2026 Officer & Director Elections

It's time to begin the process of selecting our leadership team for 2026. Each year, we nominate and elect officers and directors who help organize club activities, guide decisions, and keep things running smoothly. Whether you're a seasoned member or just starting to get involved, this is a chance to support the club in a meaningful way.

Will White will be leading the nomination process for our 2026 slate. If you're interested in serving—or know someone who might be a great fit—please reach out to Will via the club email: info@centralbrevardrockandgem.com.

We're looking for members who are ready to take an active role in club leadership. Volunteers for officer positions must have been members for at least one year; director roles are open to all members in good standing. Board members are expected to attend monthly board meetings (typically held the Monday before our general meetings), participate in club activities, and help with planning and coordination throughout the year.



Election Timeline

- **October:** Final slate of candidates will be published in the October newsletter and shared with members ahead of the November meeting.
- **November 6:** Voting will take place at our monthly meeting. Please plan to attend so we can meet quorum!
- **December:** Newly elected officers will be sworn in at the December meeting.

Open Positions & Role Summaries

Here's a brief overview of the positions we're seeking nominees for:

- **President:** Leads all club meetings, appoints committee chairs, and coordinates club activities to ensure smooth operations in alignment with our bylaws and board policies.
- **First Vice President:** Steps in when the President is unavailable and serves as program chair for monthly meetings.
- **Second Vice President:** Oversees membership duties including dues collection, new member orientation, and maintaining the member roster.
- **Secretary:** Records minutes for club and board meetings, maintains attendance records, and ensures proper storage of important club documents.
- **Treasurer:** Manages club finances, presents monthly financial reports, handles show-related funds, and ensures timely completion of required filings and dues.
- **Directors (2 positions):** Attend board and membership meetings, support club activities, and contribute to club decision-making.

Full role descriptions are available in our club bylaws, posted on our website at <https://centralbrevardgems.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Charter-and-Bylaws-2018FINAL-60718approved.pdf>

If you've ever considered stepping into a leadership role—or simply want to learn more—we'd

October Meeting Speaker—Mario Vento Cabochon Inspiration from Tucson & Quartzite

We're excited to welcome **Mario Vento** as our featured speaker at the October club meeting! Mario will be sharing highlights from his recent trip to the renowned Tucson and Quartzite Rock & Gem Shows, with a special focus on cabochon making.

These shows are among the largest and most diverse gem and mineral events in the world, and Mario's presentation will offer a firsthand look at the materials, vendors, and creative possibilities he encountered. He'll also bring a sampling of the stones and supplies he purchased—giving us a chance to see what caught his eye and how those finds might inspire future cabochon work.



Whether you're a seasoned lapidary artist or just curious about the process, this is a great opportunity to learn more about sourcing materials, spotting quality, and thinking creatively about cabochon design.

Join us for an engaging discussion, including show-and-tell, and plenty of inspiration!

Rock of the Month—Thunder Eggs



Thunder eggs may look like ordinary round rocks from the outside, but crack one open and you'll often find a dazzling surprise—bands of agate, pockets of chalcedony, or even crystal-lined cavities. These geological wonders form in rhyolitic volcanic ash layers, where gas bubbles fill with mineral-rich fluids that slowly crystallize over time.



Often mistaken for geodes, thunder eggs are actually solid all the way through (unless weathered), and their internal patterns can be strikingly intricate. They're prized by lapidary artists for their potential to reveal vivid colors and dramatic banding when sliced and polished. In jewelry, thunder egg sections are used for cabochons, pendants, and display pieces—each one a natural abstract painting. Thunder eggs are famously associated with the western United States, especially Oregon, where they're the official state rock. They can also be found in parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and even internationally in places like Germany and Australia.



Photos featured this month show thunder eggs collected by member Andrew Pepper during a trip out West and slabbed in our club shop. Whether you're cutting one yourself or admiring a finished piece, thunder eggs remind us that beauty often lies just beneath the surface.

Fall Classes Are Underway— Let Us Know What You're Interested In!

Our lapidary and jewelry-making classes are back in full swing, and it's been wonderful to see members (and also some visitors) learning, creating, and sharing in the shop again. Whether you're just getting started or looking to build on existing skills, we have a variety of offerings available—including cabbing, silversmithing, faceting, and chain mail—with other topics such as gem trees and beading coming soon.

Many sessions are already scheduled, and some have wait lists forming. If you're interested in joining a class, please reach out soon so we can get you into the queue and coordinate scheduling.

Class sizes are small, and scheduling is first-come, first-served. If you missed the August newsletter or are looking for additional information on any of these classes—or if there's a topic that you're interested in that isn't listed here, please email us at info@centralbrevardrockandgem.com for details.

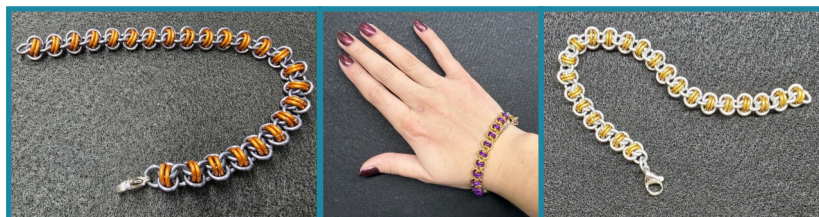
Let's keep the creativity flowing—see you in the shop!

Chain Mail Classes Continue— Join Us October 30

Our monthly chain mail classes have become a popular hands-on tradition, with each session introducing a new weave and a fresh opportunity to build skills. The September 25 class brought together eight enthusiastic participants who tackled making bracelets using the barrel weave—some completed in class, others that will be finished at home with the help of take-home instruction sheets. Photos from three of our members' finished projects are included here as inspiration.

The next class is scheduled for **October 30**, and while the featured weave is still under wraps, we encourage you to mark their calendar and plan to attend. These sessions are beginner-friendly and also engaging for those with prior experience—making them a great way to fine-tune your jump ring handling skills and explore new techniques for creating custom chains, bracelets, earrings, and more.

Whether you're new to chain mail or looking to expand your repertoire, these classes offer a fun, supportive environment to learn and create. We hope to see you there!



Chain mail bracelets completed (l to r) by Jodi, Kaity and Carol

Catching Up On Birthday Wishes

Wish our summer hiatus behind us, we want to take a moment to celebrate all the members who had birthdays from June through October. Whether your special day was weeks ago or is just around the corner, we're sending warm wishes your way and hoping the year ahead brings creativity, connection, and plenty of sparkle. Thank you for being part of our club!

- **June** – Janice I, Tim M, Christian D, Travis W
- **July** – Andrew P, Desiree F, Rick P
- **August** – Jody R, Lucy C, Richard A, Karina D, Tara B, Will W, Taylor P, Hillary P
- **September** – Elizabeth B, Jennifer D, Jesselle V, Kaity F, Arlene G, Laura D, Karin P, Mark E, Linda H, Jessica B, Rolanda P



2026 Expo Prep Begins—Let's Get Crafting!

Our annual Rock & Gem Expo is just a few short months away, and preparations are already underway! Scheduled for February, this event is one of our biggest opportunities to connect with the community, showcase our club's talents, and raise funds to support future activities.

One of the most popular areas of the show is our Kids Zone, where young visitors can spin a prize wheel or try their luck at our new Plinko game to win fun, handmade gifts. We'll also be bringing back the sluice, where kids "pan" for tumbled stones hidden in sand—a favorite activity that's both educational and exciting.

To make these experiences possible, we're asking members to **donate extra beads, cord, leather scraps, and other small craft items they no longer need**. These materials will be used to create giveaways like:

- Beaded or tasseled bag pulls (great for backpacks or key rings)
- Stretch or adjustable cord bracelets
- Bookmarks and other small keepsakes



Once we've gathered enough supplies, we'll schedule a **club work day** to assemble the items together—a fun and creative way to contribute.

If you have materials to donate or ideas to share, please bring them to the next meeting or contact us at info@centralbrevardrockandgem.com. Let's make this year's expo the best one yet!

Save the Date: *Annual Club Picnic—November 15*

Our annual picnic is just around the corner! Join us on **Saturday, November 15** at **Rotary Park on South Merritt Island** for an afternoon of good food, great company, and club camaraderie.

The club will be providing hamburgers and hotdogs fresh off the grill, and we invite members to bring a dish to share. There will also be rock and jewelry-related items available for purchase.

More details will be shared soon, but for now, **mark your calendars** and plan to join us for this fun fall tradition!



Upcoming Rock & Mineral Shows in Florida

Looking to explore new specimens, connect with vendors, or just enjoy a day surrounded by gems and geology? Florida's fall show season is packed with opportunities to do just that. Below is a list of upcoming events around the state over the next few weeks—each offering a mix of displays, sales, demonstrations, and community fun. Whether you're planning a road trip or just want to see what's nearby, be sure to check the event websites for full details, hours, and admission info.

- Florida Gem and Mineral Show—10/04 and 10/05
 - Hours: Sat 9-5; Sun 10-4
 - Venue: Sanford Civic Center, Sanford
 - Website: <http://www.floridafossilhunters.com/>
- St. Lucie County Rock & Gem Show—10/18 and 10/19
 - Hours: Sat 9-5; Sun 10-4
 - Venue: MidFlorida Event Center, Port St. Lucie
 - Website: <http://www.slcrockandgem.org/>
- Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club—11/01 and 11/02
 - Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5
 - Venue: Club Facilities, Tampa
 - Website: <https://tampabayrockclub.org>
- Fall Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show—11/01 and 11/02
 - Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5
 - Venue: Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa
 - Website: <http://tampabayrockclub.org/>

For additional shows scheduled later in the season and beyond, visit <https://www.rockandmineralshows.com/location/mineral-shows/florida>

Minutes from September 4 General Meeting

Setup at 1745—Sign in started at 1800

President's welcome and opening notes

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted, and Jennifer gave a run down of some of the updates.

Presentation

Guest speaker, Rolanda Powell,. Gave a presentation (The Sparkle of Creativity) on her journeys in rockhounding. Researching the rock and area that you are going to. Planning: Safety, timing, language, interest in the rock of interest. She retold her trip to Mexico and Georgia.

General discussion

Mario welcomed people back from the break and talked about the way forward.

Visitors were welcomed.

New Members.

Jennifer discussed the rock of the month, turquoise and tigers eye and provided a show and tell

Approval of minutes

Quorum was not met and there were no minutes to approve. New reading of minutes was discussed.

Officer Reports

First Vice President: Absent position

Second Vice President (Membership): (Rose)

- Membership 71 members, 2 junior, 2 life, 24 new, 38 renewals, 5 returning.

Treasurer Report: (Jennifer)

- No formal treasurer's report provided during the general meeting, however, a copy can be obtained by members upon request (email to info@centralbrevardrockandgem.com)

Newsletter: (on behalf of Carol)

- Monthly newsletters have now resumed following our summer hiatus. All communications from the club will come from info@centralbrevardrockandgem.com – be sure to check your email settings so you don't miss our newsletters and other messages regarding club activities.

Committee and class updates

Classes

- Chainmaille, cabling, wirewrapping, gemtrees. Class schedules will be announced and promoted in the newsletters. Shop supervisor training will be announced.

Supervisors/Shop Schedule:

- Not discussed

Workshop Committee (Repairs/Maintenance)

- Two saws are down.. Rick is working on shaft on one of the Genies.

Fall Picnic

- Scheduled November 15th.

Gem Show

- There will be differences from past shows. TikTok is allowed

Business

Old business

- Not discussed

New Business

- Not discussed

The meeting adjourned at 1925

Next meeting

The next meeting will be October 2nd, 2025

