



The Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter of The
Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club

Volume 57, Issue 3

March 2019

Message from the President

Dear Club Members,

Our meeting last Month was a good time with the Metalcrafter's auction and if you didn't come, then you missed out on a good time. Along with the auction, we had a new business item that proved to be of great interest to the majority of those present. Within the next month or two, we will be starting a new study group at the Craft Center that will pertain to rock identification, fossils and sharing about our rocks. This will be a great way to help newcomers and experienced Rockhounds get together and share information. If you are interested in helping to organize these sessions, please give me a call or send me an email.

Our V.P., Peggy Argabright informed me that we will be having a Speaker at our next club meeting. The speaker will be talking about her rockhounding adventures from last summer. This reminds me that I forgot to mention at the meeting about an upcoming trip to the U.P. to collect Lake Superior agates. I will have more information for you at our next meeting!

I hope to see you at our next meeting to be held at the Toledo Botanical Gardens on March 20th at 7pm in the Toledo Artists Club building.

Keep on rocking!

Catherine Clevenz, President

Metal Crafters Auction

The Annual Metalcrafters Auction had a wide assortment of lapidary slabs, rocks, minerals, seashells, tools and equipment. The auction raised over \$150 that will support the Metal crafters program with projects such as forming, shaping, joining, soldering, piercing, stamping, enameling, wire wrapping, braiding, casting and sculpting in metals in the year ahead. Metal Crafters is also looking into setting up a new metal casting area for Lost Wax and Mold Casting items in the year ahead.



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The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club News.

March 2019

The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club is special in that it is one of the few Clubs in the Midwest Region that host a fully equipped Lapidary Craft Center. All of our Work Groups utilize the Craft Center to operate their unique programs, training sessions and workshops. Any facility of this kind requires routine maintenance and a supply of materials to keep it running. In addition, it can be necessary to make major repairs and improvements from time to time. It should come as no surprise then that the Club requires its members to support it's use through fees. Fees are collected on an honor system and based upon how often and how long each member uses the Center. We hope that you will come to the Center as often as you like to work on your projects and not forget to contribute your fees each time that you use it.

Work Session Fees are as follows: \$1 for the Club to provide for operations. \$1/hour for use of Craft Center's equipment to provide for programs and maintenance of equipment. Please make sure that you sign in each time that you use the Craft Center and any of our equipment. Cab of the Month Slabs are available beginning at \$2.00 per slab. Most Workshops are \$15.00/member plus the cost of materials. Remember, our club's insurance policy requires that you be a member to use the Craft Center and any of its equipment so if you haven't yet renewed, we hope that you will soon.

Upcoming Meeting Announcement

The next general meeting of the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club will be held in the TBG Artist's Club's Studio on March 20th at 7 pm.

Field Trip Coordinator Chair Vacancy.

The FTC's principal duty is to prepare for and coordinate field trips for the benefit of our members.

Fall/Winter Access to the Garden

With Fall right around the corner our hours of daylight are growing shorter. As a reminder, after Sunset we can only enter the park via the Olympia Drive entrance which is between the main gate and the Education Center. Of course, you may still use the parking lot by our Craft Center if space is available. The last one out after sunset closes and locks the gates.

With the advent of severe Winter storms it is the policy of the Club to follow the Metroparks policy for closures and to suspend activities in the Craft Center during a declared Snow emergency. Please call ahead to check on the status during these events.

Metroparks Events & Volunteer Opportunities

2019 is shaping up to be another banner year. You can read about some of the projects on the drawing board here.

The Toledo Grows Annual Seed Swap

the Annual Seed Swap was held at Scott HS on Collingwood Blvd in the City of Toledo. Volunteers from the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club were Chet King, Tom Barnhizer and Tom and Pam Marok who worked in a variety of areas. This year our Editor and his son, Colton, staffed a table that earned

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over \$150 for Toledo Grows programs through the sale of Gardening and Landscaping books that were donated by Tom Barnhizer.

For specific questions about volunteering at any of our Metroparks call Trish Hausknecht at (419) 407-9703. Make sure to let them know that you are affiliated with the Rock Club. You can register as a volunteer on the Metro parks webpage at www.metroparkstoledo.com/get-involved/volunteer/ In addition, when you volunteer at least 15 hours of your time you can purchase a Metroparks membership at half price.

Garden Ambassadors Toledo Botanical Garden

This new volunteer assignment will help with scheduled tours of the gardens by welcoming tours, getting the guests started on self-guided tours, answering questions about the gardens, and assisting with garden bed identification. Please contact Kelly at kelly.griffin@metroparkstoledo.com with questions or for information on upcoming trainings.

The 2019 MWF CONVENTION

This month the 2019 Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies Convention will meet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 23-24. The Convention will be hosted by the Cedar Valley Rocks and Mineral Society who will be putting on their annual Rocks and Mineral Show. Steve Shimatzki will be representing our club at the convention as a Delegate. In addition, Ron Miller is planning to visit the Cedar Valley Rock Show and plans to gather information on displaying items at future Shows. If you are interested in attending the Show you can check out their webpage at <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/convention/convention.html> and see the flyer on the last page of this newsletter.

AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND. J.C. Moore reminded members he had raffle tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund Drawing to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa next March 23. They can be purchased by mail at 25235 N. Illinois Highway 97, Cuba, IL 61427. They are \$5 each and \$20 for five. One of the big things funded by this fund is the junior badges for the Future Rockhounds of America program. See the entire minutes of the MWF Convention on line at www.amfed.org/midwest.htm or pick up a printed copy of their newsletter

The Annual Toledo Gem and Rockhound Show.

Planning has begun for the 48th Annual Rock and Gem Show at the Stranahan Convention Center on Heatherdowns Blvd. in South Toledo. Show Chair, Steve Shimatzki, presented this years promotional flyer which in the form of a postcard. The Show Dates in 2019 are Sept. 6, 7, and 8th with set-up on Sept. 5th. Steve will be assisted by his wife, Susanna. In addition, he will be forming a committee with committee chairs and members to help out and most especially a loading and clean-up crew to prep the Stranahan Convention Center prior to the event and tear down on the final day. Club members should begin to plan for any displays that will be voted on by the visiting public. Also Steve would like to invite members to donate items to the annual raffle. If you have any new ideas for the show or would like to volunteer to staff one of the many work stations, demonstrations or presentations that are planned please contact Steve and Sue at sjs132@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Open House Dates Set:

The Spring Open House is scheduled for April 27th and 28th. The Fall Open House is scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd. Both Open House Show and Sales will be held at St. James Lutheran Church on W. Sylvania Avenue in Toledo, Ohio. Tina Mitten will once again chair these events with the assistance of Meg Barnhizer. More information as to location, table reservations and other details will

be provided as soon as they can be firmed up. See the attached Spring Open House Flyer. You may contact Tina at mittalk64@gmail.com or TXT to her phone **(419) 810-2993**.

Donations:

The Club was recently the beneficiary of a significant rock and mineral collection. If you have tools, machines or other lapidary materials and have been thinking of donating items to the Club please call or e-mail any of our Club Officers listed above for information.

For Sale: Raytech Facetter; Asking \$295.00 The machine is in great condition and comes with a 600 and 240 grit disc. **Contact:** Ken Hays – Sylvania, OH 419-280-6774



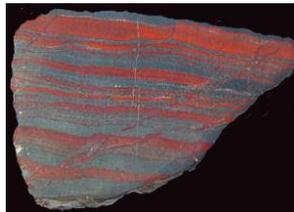
(Enlarge Photos as needed)

GEMCRAFTERS

December 2018 Gem Crafter Update:

Training Sessions: To learn the correct steps to make a quality cabochon or how to use the Slab Saws and other lapidary equipment. Please contact Joanna Toepfer, Chet King or Elie Ghanime if you would like to participate in any upcoming training session. Introduction to Gem Crafters Classes are scheduled as needed. To participate in any of these beginning classes let Joanna or Chet know of your interest as soon as possible.

The March Cabochon of the Month is Red Banded (Hemitite) Jasper.



Open work sessions:

Saturdays; Mar 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30th from 10am to 4pm with Joanna Toepfer moderating.

Wednesdays: Mar 6 13 20 and 27th from 6 to 9 pm with Chet King moderating and Tom Barnhizer in training.

Thursdays: Mar 7 14 21 and 28th from noon to four pm with Chet King moderating.

Needed: Members to maintain/clean equipment: The club needs members who are willing to clean and fix gem crafter equipment at the Craft Center. Recently, Michelle Grigore spent a considerable time to clean many of the machines that members use. To have working saws, cooling systems and grinders along with a comfortable, safe working space when you come in, please step up and help

out. Thank you in advance for your assistance. See Joanna Toepfer, Cathy Clevenz, or Chet King for more details or to volunteer.

Gemcrafters Chair Fund: Gemcrafters has begun a fund drive for the purchase of six adjustable ergonomic/swivel office chairs to replace the existing metal folding chairs in use on various lapidary equipment. Donations have been made by members that will be used to purchase 2 or possibly 3 chairs. If you are interested making a donation toward the purchase of additional chairs you may place your cash or check in a marked envelope and leave it in the Craft Center for deposit into this temporary fund. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Gem Crafter Moderators: Thanks to Joanna Toepfer and Chet King. Should any member be interested in becoming a Moderator please contact Joanna Toepfer joanna@cqasolutions.co.

FACETERS:

Elie Ghanime is asking members interested in taking an **Intro to Faceting** Class to email him at eg.therockman@gmail.com. This class will begin on Saturday, March 16th, continuing Sunday the 17th, 2019 in the Toledo Gem Craft Center. The hours will be from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on both dates. This class, which will be limited to 10 members, will cover technical/design aspects and include a hands-on Faceting Machine session. The cost of the workshop is \$85.00 per person with all material required to be included. This is a very small fee considering a similar workshop would cost well over \$1500.00. Please make your payment by check to the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (re: Faceting workshop) **ASAP** to book your spot. Cash is also accepted.

In addition, Chet King is open to additional members signing up for a hands-on weekend faceting classes in the craft center.

METAL CRAFTERS

If anyone is still interested in another class on Fire Enameling, please let me know and we can get another class scheduled. I also would like to invite everyone to come to open sessions. I can help with or give some direction on any project that you would like to do. I can make myself available so please email me at bking3@me.com.

Brian has changed his schedule in the new year and will now be available Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm and alternating Saturdays for Weekend Open Sessions. For the month of February Metalcrafters will meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Please email Brian at bking3@me.com if you would like to attend so he can have the facilities ready.

BEADERS:

TGRC Beaders will have their first meeting of 2019 on the third Monday of the Month at 6PM. If you are interested in beading, contact Nancy Grove nancy7536@att.net for more information.

ADVANCED BEADERS:

The "Extreme" Beaders meet on Tuesdays beginning at 9AM. Participants should be able to work independently on their own projects. If you would like to join, but need more information, contact Kathy Petersen mlrlyt@AOL.com

CRAFT CENTER SPRING CLEANING???

The Craft Center is in desperate need of a house cleaning in the new year. If your home and garage is anything like mine, you know that things can be pretty hard to find after a while and a messy shop can also make it harder to do a high-quality job. So, it has been suggested that we make it a priority to clean out any unwanted items, make repairs as needed and get organized. Given the current state

of affairs this is probably going to take a while as we will need to work in different areas so as not to interrupt existing programs. Stay tuned for further updates on when we will start and what volunteers and equipment, we will need to pull this off. Thanks in advance for stepping up.

SUNSHINE: No Report.

March Events and Regional Shows

1-3: RICHMOND, IN Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society Annual Show. Fri. & Sat. 10 am - 6 pm. Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd., Richmond. Contact: Judy Burton, jleeburton@woh.r.r.com

9-10: LIVONIA, MI Roamin Club Auction. Sat 11 am - 6 pm; Sun 12 noon - 6 pm. Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia. Contact: Todd Gall, (248) 348-5093; roaminrockhound@gmail.com

23: TAYLOR, MI Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Rock Swap. 10 am - 5 pm. St. John's Lutheran Church, 13115 Telegraph Rd., Taylor. Contact Lou Talley, (734) 837-8920; ltalley1970@gmail.com **FLYER**

23-24: CEDAR RAPIDS, IA Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society 55th Annual Show and **AFMS/MWF 2019 Convention**. Sat 8:30 am - 6 pm; Sun 9:30 am - 4 pm. Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, 4400 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. Contact: Marvin Houg, (319) 364-2868; m_houg@yahoo.com www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

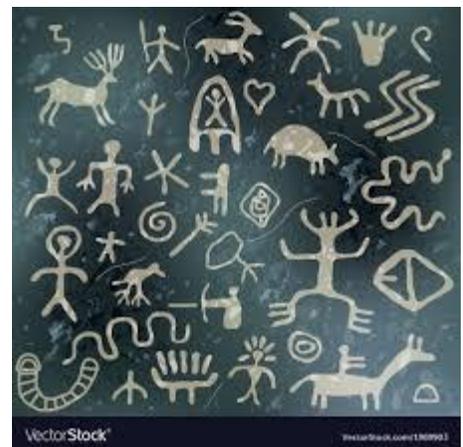
30-31: FORT DODGE, IA River Valley Rockhounds, Inc. Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Webster County Fairgrounds, 22770 Old Highway 159, Fort Dodge. Contact: Robert Wolf, (515) 955-2818; midnightwriter@frontiernet.net

30-31: CANTON, OH Stark County Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Stark County Fairgrounds, 305 Wertz Ave, Canton. Contact: Jeff Storz, (740) 630-7714; jstorz42@gmail.com

TRGC Future Rockhounds Of America:

We held our February FRA meeting where our juniors participated in hands-on projects as they continued to learn more about contemporary and ancient Rock Arts. In January they were excited to learn how to carve Soapstone. February's meeting had our Rockhounds painting their own pebbles and making their own Petroglyphs after studying examples from the American southwest along with examples from continents around the globe. Each junior took home a small bag of rock and mineral specimens to add to their own collection. Juniors will continue to meet at the Craft Center on the 4th Saturday of each month from 2-4 pm accompanied by a parent or guardian. We may also meet in other locations that may better support our program. At each session Future Rockhounds will learn about rocks and minerals as in the past and in addition geology, geography, chemistry

Nuggets



"I think it says something about a Ground Hog named Phil predicting an early Spring."

and physics. Each youth will complete age appropriate activities to earn patches and pins as they demonstrate their knowledge. Within the FRA program they will learn how to organize their collections, help with shows, make presentations, participate in field trips and demonstrate leadership. FRA is geared to appeal to youth from 1st grade to high school Seniors. In March we will study the fossil record and why it is important to science and collectors. This is in preparation for our first field trip to Fossil Park in the Spring.

OUTREACH / PRESENTATIONS:



Our member, Elie Ghanamie, has added a series of videos to his existing Youtube postings that cover a wide range of lapidary topics of interest to beginners and skilled craftsperson's alike. His most recent posting is a three-part series entitled **Cutting Welo Opal**. Elie takes his viewers on a step by step path with many useful tips leading to the creation of the highest quality polished gemstones with the least waste of time and material. You can find Elie's Youtube videos that average 18 minutes under his tag **Eg Jewels**. We highly



recommend that you visit his site and if you like what you see, give him a thumbs up and consider subscribing for free so that you won't miss any of his future productions.

FIELD TRIPS:

Club member, Dr. Quentin Skarbek would like to invite Club members to tour selected areas of the Toledo Art Museum with a focus on rocks, minerals and geology. This tour will be open to all Club members including Future Rockhounds. Should you be unable to participate in the above field trip we hope that you will consider visiting the Museum on you own this year. The Museums hours of operation are Tuesday and Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday: noon - 5 p.m.. Admission is FREE. Parking is \$7 (FREE to Friends of the Museum members).

Several members are planning a late May Field Trip to Michigans UP to collect Lake Superior Agates and other rock and mineral specimens including native Copper. Should any member elect to organize a field trip they should contact the Club President with information on the activity including planned dates and times.

The above Field Trips have yet to be fully confirmed so we will keep you posted.

Tool Talk: The Lapidary Grinder/Polisher Machine **

When preparing to shape and polish a specimen for ultimate use in a piece of jewelry you will most likely will want to use a Grinder and Polishing machine. In ancient times and as late as the 17th century grinding and polishing was done by hand. With the advent of the industrial age machines made it much easier to complete this process quickly. Most modern machines have six or more grinding wheels with progressively finer grit. Beginning with the coarsest grit, initial shaping is often necessary before grinding a dome on the remaining wheels.



Final polishing is done on the last two wheels once the cabochon is ground to its final shape. Inspect your piece often to assure that there are no flat areas and scratches before you advance to the next wheel.

Caution: NEVER use these machines to grind or polish Sandstones, Limestone, metal or any specimen that contain metals. Doing so would remove the diamond coated surface from wheels posing a hazard to the crafter and require replacement and possible repair of the machine.

As with most lapidary equipment you must inspect the machine before you begin. It is necessary that task lights are working to assure safety and quality. Abrasive belts must be securely mounted on the polishing wheel and checked for tightness or areas where the abrasive surface has been worn away. Machine guards should always be in place to keep water spray contained and prevent any debris from being thrown into the operators face. Repair or replace any loose or broken items before using the machine. Once the water pump is powered a stream of water will be sucked up and sprayed onto the desired wheel by the bubbler or emit from water feed lines above the wheel and seen to be washing over the surface. Wheels must be thoroughly soaked before beginning so if there is no obvious water present verify that all valves are open and pumping system is powered. Add water to the reservoir as needed before you begin work. If you are unable to make repairs or adjustments yourself move to another machine and report the problem to the session Moderator.

When preparing to shape and polish a stone it is first necessary to make a plan how best to do it. Once on the wheel it is critical that you keep the cab in motion. Due to the hardness of different materials it is necessary to grind very slowly using very light pressure to prevent flat areas and preserve the proper shape as well as the abrasive surface of the wheel. Some specimens, such as Turquoise, benefit from soaking them in water. Do your research before you begin to assure the best results. For details on **How to Make a Cabochon** refer to the literature or select one or more of the many video tutorials available on-line.

When you have finished your project, you should give the machine a good cleaning by wiping surfaces free of excess water, oil and debris with sponges, shop rags and paper towels as needed. This will preserve the tool for the next time that you or another club member will want to use it. Finally, check once again to assure that all power and water is shut off.

Next month's **Tool Talk** will cover the safety, operation and maintenance of _____. Always remember, we all depend upon one another to keep our Craft Center operation safe, clean and efficient. As you observe fellow members working you should feel free to share your own knowledge with those who may not be as familiar with a specific machine as yourself.

*If you are unfamiliar with any operation call on the Moderator to assist you.

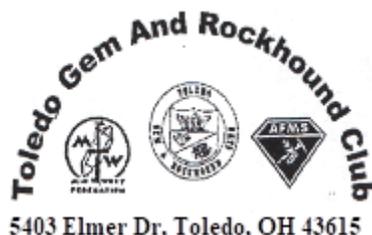
Rock Shop of the Month



Frank's Rock Shop and Gems as a new advertiser to the Rocky Reader. Owner, Frank Kramic, would like to invite you to visit his establishment open Monday through Saturday, 10am to 7 pm, in Morenci, Michigan just 40 minutes West of Sylvania on Ohio Rte 120. Frank has a large selection of raw rocks and minerals as well as cut specimens and faceted gems. You will also find an assortment of new and used lapidary equipment on display. His shop is located on the far west side of town at the corner of Main Street and Smiths Hwy. Check out his Facebook page and give him a call.

For a full calendar of events and activities visit the "Events Page" of the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club web-site at <http://www.rockyreader.com/Home/Events> and use the arrow pad to select the month. A copy of the most current calendar is provided below and Printed calendars will be available in the craft center and distributed at monthly meetings.

On Facebook? So is the club along with postings from members and lots of pictures! Please, comment, post your own photos and "LIKE" us! <https://www.facebook.com/ToledoRockhounds>



2019 MWF Convention

SPONSORED BY THE CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

March 23 & 24, 2019

Geodes, Iowa's Mysterious State Rock

also featuring

a T-Rex Skull

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

Raffle Both CVRMS and MWF will hold Raffles at the Show. For CVRMS raffle tickets for 6 items will be sold throughout the Show, with the drawing at 3:30 on Sunday.

Silent Auction The silent auction will be a combined CVRMS and MWF event and will run continuously throughout the show, with each round lasting about 15 minutes. Some items for the MWF Auction may go more than one round. Get great deals on slabs, specimens, gemstones, equipment, and many other rock and gem related items. Donate items for the MWF silent auctions and fill out a Bid Form for each item. Please collect donated items from your club members and bring them with their Bid Forms to Hawkeye Downs on Friday during setup or at the Cracker - Barrel Potluck on Friday night. Items will also be accepted at Hawkeye Downs any time during the Show.

Your Invited to the



TOLEDO GEM & ROCKHOUND CLUB

SPRING OPEN HOUSE SHOW & SALE APRIL 27-28TH, 2019

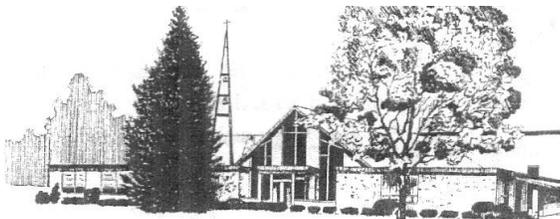
Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday 11 am - 4 pm

Handcrafted Treasures of the Natural World

Over millions of years the elements that make up the surface of our world have formed into rocks and minerals of great natural beauty that when combined with the skill of a stone crafter or Lapidary artist are transformed into precious and semi-precious gems and items of jewelry, many mounted in handcrafted Silver, that you will enjoy for years to come.

Interested in Collecting?

Millions of young and old have joined the ranks of amateur **Rockhounds**. They enjoy collecting rare rocks, minerals and fossils that offer an endless variety of shape and color. 100's of natural, slabbed or polished specimens will be offered to help you get started or fill a gap in your own collection or serve as a featured item in your homes decor.



**Rock & Gem Open House
St James Lutheran Church
4727 W Sylvania Ave, Toledo, OH
43623**

**Handcrafted
Precious & Semi-
precious Jewelry**

**Intricate Handmade
Beaded Treasures**

**Make-it-and Take-
It: Gem Trees, Bead
Bracelets, & More...**

**Geode's, Agates,
Crystals & Gems**

Ancient Marine

**Fossils, Petrified
Dinosaur bone, Trees
& Plants**

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