



# The Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter of The  
**Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club**

Volume 57, Issue 2

February 2019

## Message from the President

Dear Club Members,

Last Month we had a wonderful meeting and if you didn't come, then you missed out on a good time. We gave out our scholarships and had a fine presentation about lead and it's contamination in the Toledo area by BGSU grad, Brett Merkley. At our next meeting, we will be having the Metal Crafter's auction. So, if you have anything to contribute, please bring it to the next meeting! The Metal Crafters would greatly appreciate it. If you have to leave the meeting early, before the auction is over, please let me know so I may be your "proxy". This way, you won't miss out on possibly getting items you wish to purchase.

On another note, I am still looking for someone to step up to become the Club Historian. This person would be in charge of our club's history archives and make sure that past issues of the Rocky Reader and all meeting minutes are kept together and intact. Please call me if you are interested.

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

Keep on rocking!  
Catherine Clevenz, President

## Metal Crafters Auction

Each year, February's chill is softened in anticipation of the Annual Metalcrafters Auction. This year we will see a wide assortment of lapidary slabs, machines, tools and equipment. As a result of our recent garage cleaning we have over 100 back issues of Rock & Gem and Lapidary Journal magazines that will be on the block. The proceeds of this month's auction 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. If your interested in learning any of the above techniques as well as adding some cool stuff to your tool chest support the Metal crafters Auction with your generous bids.



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## The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club News.

### February 2019

Our featured speaker in January was Brett Beckley from Bowling Green State who presented his research project on the distribution and effects of Lead contamination in urban landscapes and former garden soils. We learned that once Lead deposited in soils it is permanent and that contamination is concentrated in urban environments due to its use in paint and construction materials. These two facts allow us to protect our health by modifying where and how we use area that are most contaminated. Environmental research of this type is valuable for both homeowners now and for future land use planners and policy makers in the future. Following Mr. Beckley's talk TGRC Board Member, Mike Mayer, made a presentation to Dr. Timothy Fisher of the University of Toledo and Dr. John Farber of Bowling Green State University in support of the endowment funds of their respective Geology Departments. Each institution was the recipient of \$500 to support the efforts of their students in the furtherance of their studies of Geology and Earth Science.

### Upcoming Meeting Announcement

In February, we will meet in the TBG Artist's Club on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

### Web Page Update

Tonya Wallace continues her task of updating our Club's Webpage. Log in and check it out. We look forward to seeing more changes in the new year. Also, don't forget to check in, like and share our Clubs Facebook page.

### Field Trip Coordinator Chair Vacancy.

The FTC's principal duty is to prepare for and coordinate field trips for the benefit of our members. There is one Field Trip planned for the month of January (see article on page 6) and others are under consideration. 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. Please check the Club Calendar to confirm open dates as needed.

### 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 suspend activities in the Craft Center during a declared Level 2 Snow emergency and to follow the Metroparks policy for closures. Please call ahead to check on the status during these events.

### Metroparks Events & Volunteer Opportunities

Metroparks marked it's 90th anniversary in 2018 by making history. Here are just some of the highlights.

- Howard Marsh opened in April
- A week later, the Maumee River Water Trail was dedication

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- Work was completed on the 12-mile **Beach Ridge Singletrack Trail** at Oak Openings
- And construction began on the **Cannaley Treehouse Village**
- The year ended with record attendance for Holidays in the Manor House at Wildwood Preserve - over 40,000 people!
- And 5 million visits were logged at the 16 Metroparks - the best year ever for park attendance

Already, 2019 is shaping up to be another banner year. You can read about some of the projects on the drawing board here. For more, see the February issue of the Project Update.

### **The 2019 Seed Swap**

the Annual Seed Swap will be held at Scott HS on Collingwood Blvd in the City of Toledo. Volunteers are needed to work in a variety of areas.

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/](http://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.

### **Sewing and Mending Cultural Interpretation Garments**

Volunteers are needed for some mending and light sewing work on our cultural interpretation garments. Experience with sewing/mending a must. Volunteers will have the opportunity to choose items and tasks that fit their abilities and take the pieces home to complete the project. Contact Kelly at [kelly.griffin@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:kelly.griffin@metroparkstoledo.com) for more information.

### **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](mailto:kelly.griffin@metroparkstoledo.com) with questions or for information on upcoming trainings.

### **The 2019 MWF CONVENTION**

The 2019 Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies Convention will meet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 23-24 hosted by the Cedar Valley Rocks and Mineral Society who will be putting on their annual Rocks and Mineral Show. If you are interested in serving as a Delegate to the 2019 convention you may submit your name to the TGRC Board of Directors at their next meeting. If you are interested in only attending the Show you can check out their webpage at <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/convention/convention.html> and see the flyer below.

**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](http://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. The Show Dates in 2019 are Sept. 6, 7, and 8th with set-up on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Steve Shimatzki is the Show Chair. 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. If you have any new ideas for The Show please contact Steve at [sjs132@gmail.com](mailto:sjs132@gmail.com) as soon as possible so that he can work them in if possible.

### **Open House Dates Set:**

The Spring Open House is set for May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Fall Open House is scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. More information as to location, table reservations and other details will be provided as soon as they can be firmed up.

### **Donations:**

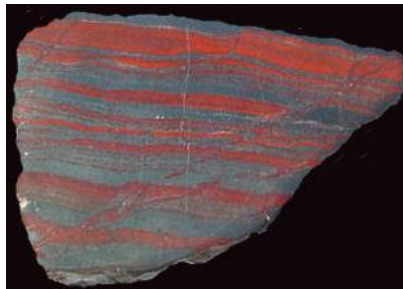
The Club was recently the beneficiary of a significant rock and mineral collection. If you have tools, machines or other lapidary materials and have been thinking of donating items to the Club please call or e-mail any of our Club Officers listed above for information.

## **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 please contact Joanna Toepfer or Catherine Clevenz, Intro Gem Crafters Classes are scheduled as needed so to take beginning classes let them know of your interest as soon as possible.

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



### **Open work sessions:**

**Saturdays;** Feb 2, 9, 16 and 23rd from 10am to 4pm with Joanna Toepfer moderating.

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

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

**Work Session Fees are as follows:** \$1 for the Club to provide for operations. \$1/hr for use of Craft Center to provide for programs and maintenance of equipment. Please make sure that you sign in each time that you use the Craft Center. Cab of the Month Slabs are available for various prices. The Fee for a Workshop is \$15.00 plus the cost of materials. At present there are no workshops scheduled. 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.

**Needed: Members to maintain/clean equipment:** The club needs members who are willing to clean and fix gem crafter equipment at the Craft Center. 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. Several donations were made by members at our January meeting, enough to purchase at least one chair. 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.

**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](mailto:joanna@cqasolutions.co) .

### **FACETERS:**

Elie Ghanime is asking for members to email him at [eg.therockman@gmail.com](mailto:eg.therockman@gmail.com) if they are interested in taking a 2<sup>nd</sup> **Intro to Faceting** Class. This class, which will be limited to 10 members, will cover technical/design aspects and include a hands-on Faceting Machine session. In addition, Chet King is open to additional members signing up for a hands-on faceting class 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays. Please email Brian at [bking3@me.com](mailto:bking3@me.com) if you would like to attend so he can have the facilities ready.

### **BEADERS:**

The Beaders meet on the third Monday of the Month at 6PM. If you are interested in beading, contact Nancy Grove [nancy7536@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:mlrlyt@AOL.com)

### **CRAFT CENTER WINTER/SPRING CLEANING???**

The Craft Center is in desperate need of a house cleaning 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.

## **Nuggets**



"I think it's time we move our Rockhounding out to Tucson Arizona where the Agates are warmer."

**SUNSHINE: No Report.**

## **Upcoming Events and Regional Shows**

### **TRGC Future Rockhounds Of America:**

We held our first FRA meeting of 2019 with six youth and parents in attendance including two new memberships. Everyone was excited to learn how to carve Soapstone and each took home a small bag of geology specimens to begin or add to their collection. The Club has registered with the Midwest Federation in order to introduce a new youth program entitled **Future Rockhounds of America** or FRA. 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 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade to high school Seniors. So, let's spread the word to family, friends and the community as we make some new Rockhounds for the future.

### **OUTREACH:**

On January 16<sup>th</sup> Rocky Reader Editor, Tom Barnhizer, made 2 presentations to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Longfellow Middle School in Toledo, Ohio on Rocks and Minerals. Seventy-five students attended these first Rock Talks of 2019.

### **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 had to be rescheduled so we will keep you posted for a possible trip in February 2019. The tour would be open to all members including Junior Rockhounds. 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). Should you be unable to participate in the above tour we hope that you will consider visiting the Museum on you own this winter.

### **Tool Talk: The Lapidary Trim Saw \*\***

If you are preparing to make a cabochon or just reducing the size of a larger specimen you will need to master the Trim Saw. Shaping rocks and some mineral specimens in preparation for grinding and polishing is a basic skill of any Lapidary Craftsmen. Even if you're a beginning Rockhound or budding collector you may still want to slice off a section of a specimen to observe it's interior or to prepare it for mounting or display. Trimming is often necessary to begin the shaping process of a specimen for cabbing or to isolate a specific portion of a rock for other processes. Similar to the slab saw one should **NEVER cut Sandstone, metals or any specimens that contain metal.** Doing so would remove the diamond coated surface from the blade making it useless and may even fracture the thinner blades of many Trim saws posing a real hazard to the crafter.

The Club operates two 8 inch Trim Saws. These Saws are capable of cutting rocks up to 2 ½ inches in height and about 4 inches in length, however, most cutting is done on specimens far smaller. The belt-driven 8 inch blade runs below the cutting table where it picks up water or a solution of water-based oil to both lubricate and cool the cutting surface. Should the water level fall too low the blade could be destroyed and the heat from friction could damage the stone itself. Unlike the slab saws the Trim Saw has no vice to hold the specimen during the trimming process. Nor does it have a

carriage to feed the stone through the cut. Instead the operator must hold the piece in contact with the saw blade as it is fed slowly through the cut. With one's fingers in such close proximity to the cutting surface safety is a big factor when using the Trim Saw to prevent injury. Eye protection is also necessary, and some specimens may require a filter mask to prevent inhaling hazardous particles that can be suspended in the mist created by the cut.

As with most lapidary equipment you need to inspect any tool before you begin using it. In addition to the saw itself it is necessary that task lights are available and working to assure safety and quality. Saw blades must be securely attached to the motor or pulley shaft and free of nicks, cracks or broken teeth to be safe and cut cleanly. Similarly, belts and pulleys should be checked for tightness or worn areas and blade guards should always be in place to prevent debris from being thrown into the operators face. Repair or replace any loose or broken items before using the saw. Once the saw is powered a stream of water or coolant will be picked up by the blade and seen to be washing over the specimen to be cut. If there is no obvious water present shut off power and add coolant 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 trim a stone it is first necessary to make a plan how best to do it safely and effectively. All cuts on the Trim Saw must be made in a straight line with no turning of the specimen once cutting has begun. Often it is necessary to return to an area to continue "chipping" away waste material to the desired cutting line. Due to the nature of many materials to be cut and the thickness as well as hardness of many items it is necessary to cut very slowly using very light pressure to prevent damage or breakout. Some specimens, such as Turquoise, benefit from soaking them in water before cutting. Do your research before you begin to assure the best results.

When you have finished trimming 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. Remove any tools or fixtures from the cutting surface. Finally, check once again to assure that all power is shut off.

Next month's **Tool Talk** will cover the safety, operation and maintenance of the **Grinder/Polishers**. 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.

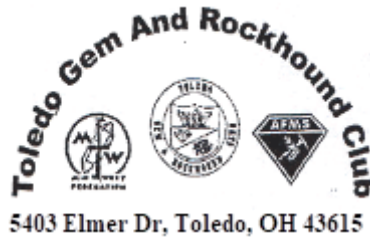
## **WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS**



We welcome Frank's Rock Shop and Gems as a new advertiser to the Rocky Reader. Owner, Frank Kramic, would like to encourage 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*

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### **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.