

# Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The  
**Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club**

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July 2018

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Hello Everyone!

I was looking at the calendar and realized how close we are to the big show in September. As our Show Chairman sends out sign-up sheets for volunteer time slots and donations of food for the vendors, I hope all of you will help make this a big success as you do every year by signing up!

I also want to make you aware of our speaker for the July meeting. His name is Don Baker, and he will be doing a presentation on **The Art of Scrimshaw**. Don is a very talented artist with much to share, so don't miss the July meeting!

Finally, please don't forget to be safe when you go out rockhounding. If you go by yourself, make sure to leave location information with someone as well as a time frame for your activity. Then call that person as soon as you are finished so they know you are alright. It can be unnerving to be injured and in the middle of nowhere!

Rock-on!

Catherine Clevenz, President

### Project Patriotic Rescheduled

Catherine has once again challenged our artists to submit Patriotic themed items. Items will be voted on by Club members present at the July meeting. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three objects or displays.

## **The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club News.**

### **July Craft Center Update:**

New training sheets have been created for the Metal Crafters and Gem Crafters, allowing for more specific trainings that fit better with what we are currently doing. A list of members who have received trainings is available to the Moderators at each work session.

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.

### **Events & Volunteer Opportunities**

Thanks to all of our TGRC Volunteers who served at the Crosby Festival of the Arts. It was great to see everyone walking the gardens and enjoying the beauty of collections and displays while stopping to meet our local and regional artists.

#### **Tea Volunteers Needed**

##### **Manor House at Wildwood Preserve**

First week of the Month in April, May, June, August, September, October, and November

9:00am-12:00pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am-3:30pm on Friday

Volunteers are needed to help with monthly Tea in the Manor House preparations such as set up, and sandwich making, and also with serving tea, sandwiches, and desserts of the Tea days. Each tea has a specific theme and volunteers are encouraged to dress for the theme. For more information, please email Kelly Griffin at [Kelly.griffin@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:Kelly.griffin@metroparkstoledo.com)

#### **Garden Keepers**

##### **Toledo Botanical Gardens**

We are looking for volunteers to adopt one or more landscape beds to maintain throughout the season. Gardening experience is not necessary but helpful. Training will be provided. A minimum commitment of 25 hours is required. Age 18+. If you are interested or would like to learn more, contact Lori Miller at [lori.miller@metroparkstoledo.com](mailto:lori.miller@metroparkstoledo.com)

For specific questions about volunteering at any of our Metroparks call Trish Hausknecht at (419) 407-9703. In addition, when you volunteer at least 15 hours of your time you can purchase a Metroparks membership at half price. See the Metro parks webpage at [www.metroparkstoledo.com/get-involved/volunteer/](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com/get-involved/volunteer/)

### **METAL CRAFTERS CLASSES FOR JULY**

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).

I will be available Saturdays the 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for Weekend open sessions. This is in addition to the regular Metal Crafters Sessions on Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Again, please email me if you would like to come so I know whether to be there or not.

## 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.

## EXTREME BEADERS

The Extreme Beaders meet on Tuesdays beginning at 9AM. Participants must be able to work independently on their own projects. If you would like to join, but need instruction, contact Kathy Petersen [mlrlyt@AOL.com](mailto:mlrlyt@AOL.com) for more information.

## GEMCRAFTERS

### July 2018 Gem Crafter Update:

#### Open work sessions:

**Saturdays** 10am to 4pm

**Wednesdays** 6pm to 9 pm: Brian King has agreed to collaborate with gem crafters in a Joint Session. Please let Michelle know if you're looking to attend. Catherine to the rescue! We were short a Moderator and the mid-week Gemcrafters sessions were in jeopardy. However, Cathy has agreed to serve as a moderator for Wednesday nights in July and is looking forward to helping our Craft Center newbies on the machines and introducing them to the wonderful world of Lapidary Arts.

**Thursdays** Noon to 4 pm: July 5, 19, and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Intro Classes:** To learn to make a cabochon or use the slab saws- Please email Michelle at [mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com](mailto:mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com) with some dates/times that would work for you to take these two beginning classes and get signed off on using the saws/grinders. We also have a limited quantity of blue goldstone for purchase in July.

### Cabochons of the Month for July:



"Mary Ellen Jasper": Fossilized Stromatolites from Minnesota

(image may be enlarged)

**Needed: Members to maintain/clean equipment:** The club needs members who are willing to clean and fix gem crafter equipment at the Craft Center. One of our current maintenance folks has family medical issues that prevent them from doing this. To have working saws, cooling systems and grinders when you come in, please step up and help out. Thank you in advance for your assistance. See Cathy Clevenz, Chet King or Michelle Grigore for more details or to volunteer.

**Equipment update:** We have installed replacement blades on 10" and 14" slab saws. We hope to repair the on/off switch on 16" saw if the part we ordered comes in before vacation. Gem Crafters sold two additional surplus grinders in June. Club members bought both of these items. We sold a vibrating lap machine at the open house and still have one vibrating tumbler yet to sell. These machines were either recently donated or have been in storage for quite some time. The Club is pleased that they have been restored to use and will soon be producing beautiful examples of craftsmanship by our members. If you are thinking of donating or purchasing one of the above machine please E-mail Michelle at [mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com](mailto:mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com) for details.

**Gem Crafter Moderators:** Thanks to Brian King, Joanna Toepfer, Cathy Clevenz, Chet King and Michelle Grigore.

### **JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS**

The Juniors meetings are scheduled on the 4th Saturday of every month from 2-4 pm. Our junior members are age 6 (ish) up to age 17 and we focus depending on interest of the regular attendees. If you have something you are interested learning or doing with the Junior group, don't hesitate to ask. Your input is important, and I try and set up the meetings to learn about and do stuff that you and the other Juniors want to know about. More advanced juniors may be given independent projects to share their results with the group.

Junior Rockhounds are a "hands on" type of group where I pass around samples and we learn together. Questions are encouraged by the juniors and I will answer them or identify their rocks from home to the best of my ability. There are usually take-home samples also. We do ask at least one parent be available with you to help and learn with you. It is more enjoyable that way and I know you will get more out of it when you have a "buddy" at home to help.

Any other questions about the juniors, Please ask Steve Shimatzki. E-mail: [sjs132@gmail.com](mailto:sjs132@gmail.com) or call: 567-868-8794.

**Looking for a Home.** We are still looking for a display case for the beautiful 300 lb, Quartz crystal plate that was donated to our Club. The plate originated from an Arkansas cave and is in storage until we either build or purchase a suitable method to transport and display it.

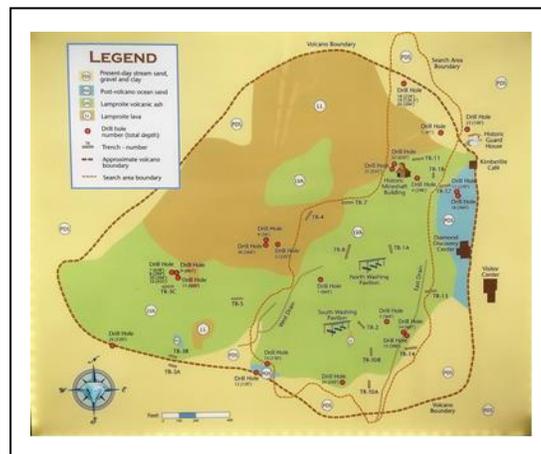


**Crater of Diamonds State Park, Murfreesboro, Arkansas,** offers park visitors a one-of-a-kind experience—the chance to find a real diamond in the dirt at your feet. Visitors search a 37 ½-acre plowed field that is, in reality, the eroded surface of the world's eighth largest diamond-bearing “volcanic” crater; and...If you find a diamond, it is yours to keep. With that in mind Tom and Meg Barnhizer took up their shovels and headed out into the park to pan for diamonds in the rough. What we discovered was that prospecting for diamonds is just that...Rough.

We drove 2 days to get the park, staying overnight in Seven Points COE Campground just east of Nashville, Tennessee, a beautiful park on J. Percy Reservoir and only minutes from Opry Land. We arrived at Crater of Diamonds State Park before dinner the next day beginning our visit at the park's Visitor Center. We quickly located our site and parked our Camper in a thickly wooded but spacious area with clean and well-maintained facilities. The park has 47 Class AAA campsites and five walk-in tent sites. There is free but very spotty Wi-Fi, picnic sites, a restaurant and gift shop, walking trails, a laundry and for an extra ten bucks the Diamond Springs Water Park, a play pool for visitors of all ages.

The following morning, we headed back to the Visitor Center to begin our adventure. Here we were able to view real diamonds in the rough and explore interactive exhibits that explained why diamonds are present in Arkansas in the first place.

Then, we passed through the Diamond Discovery Center on our way to the diamond search area. A video and park staff demonstrated the various ways to search for and identify any rough diamonds. Diamonds come in all colors of the rainbow, however, the three colors found here are white, brown, and yellow. Park staff provide free identification and certification of any potential diamonds found. In addition to diamonds, amethyst, garnet, jasper, agate, quartz, and more rocks and minerals may also be found at the Crater of Diamonds, making the park a rock hound's paradise.



We quickly filled three 5 gal. buckets with soil and gravel as the heat and humidity of the day began to soar and moved to one of several wash stations. We poured some of the “pay-dirt” into a pair of screens that were submerged into a wash tank and began to shake and stir the material through them. The top screen stopped any material larger than a pea while the lower screen held anything larger than a pin-head. It took about an hour, on average, to process each bucket of gravel stopping to inspect each screen as the silt and sand was washed out into the water trough below. It was easy to lose track of time as the prospect of finding a diamond was on everyone's mind. However, at some point fatigue sets in and we were grateful to call it a day and see what other attractions that the area had to offer. I met Meg at the Visitor Center and she led me to the park's restaurant where she was surprised to find a delicious veggie burger on the menu.

The nearby City of Murfreesboro, AR loves rocks. Nearly every shop we visited had a display of rocks and minerals from around the region and across the U.S. on display. Several stores featured gemstones that had come from the Park itself. A small number of local restaurants were open to serve tourist but do not expect to see any fast food franchise outlets. Everyone we met was very friendly and the town had an aura of days gone by with shops and front yards full of antiques of all kinds. We picked up some snacks and fresh fruit to take back to our campsite after polishing off a couple of root beer floats.

We stayed at Crater of Diamonds State Park for three days. Our fellow campers came from all over the country and we enjoyed visiting with them and sharing our experiences at the Park and



on the road. So, with memories in mind and souvenir's in hand we reluctantly pulled our camper back onto the interstate heading east. We didn't find any diamonds, although one camper came away with the ultimate prize; a one-point white gemstone. A park ranger told Meg that on average visitors find one diamond each week with a rough size of a tenth of a carat or less. More importantly she said that the best time to prospect is in the cooler days of April shortly after the first Spring plowing of the diamond field. We'll be back one day but plan to see a lot more of the region next time. Until then, we were permitted to bring home one

bucket of screened gravel for each day of prospecting. I plan to sift through them in the days ahead so there is still a chance we'll get lucky. I'll let you know...maybe.

## Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club

### Meeting Minutes June 20 , 2018

#### Meeting held in the Toledo Artist Guild Building beginning at 7:00pm

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Secretary Report** – The previous minutes were posted in the May Rocky Reader. Tom Marok made a motion to approve the minutes, and Meg Barnhizer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**3. Treasurer Report** – Steve Shimatzki reported that our Bank account is healthy. Report in RockyReader. Treasurers report to be audited by members at later date. Tom Morok motioned to approve, and Elie seconded. Motion passed.

Katherine Smarkle and Cathy Clevenz are the only officers present. Tom Barnhizer was unable to be present due to illness and Steve Shimatzki is at Camp with the Boy Scouts.

#### 4. Old Business

**A.** 2nd Annual Patriotic Contest Rescheduled for: July 2018 General Meeting.

Artists are asked to submit small table displays or wall decor (no bigger than a sheet of copy paper) or an item of jewelry that would fit the patriotic theme.

Judging will be done by the Members present who will vote for their favorites.

Prizes: \$30, \$25, and \$15 will be awarded to the top three artists selected.

**B.** Junior Rockhounds had fun at Fossil Park in May. Many Devonian fossils were found and identified by Tom Morok. Junior Rainey plans to organize her collection for display at her local 4-H Club.

**C.** Steve will send out the signups for the Fall Rock and Gem Show. Nancy Grove is taking signups for display cases. Tom Barnhizer is looking to get volunteers to repair and set up the Ultra-Violet Light booth for the Show this year. We need to get volunteers to help move stuff for show. Show Waivers?

**D. Resident Org. Update:** Steven Stokford is the new head of Operations at the Garden replacing Doug. We no longer need to update the Metro parks on classes and activities directly. We are asked to submit a notice of any scheduled classes, events or activities within the Park. These records must be submitted monthly. The Club is continuing to address how we can meet the expectations of the Metroparks regarding what we can and cannot do according the type of organization we are.



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## 5. New Business.

Catherine toured a hillside in Glass butte, Oregon while visiting her Son. As she was looking for mahogany obsidian, she was keeping a sharp eye out for snakes. A nearby calf startled her causing her to lose her balance and tumble down the hill spraining her knee. She is on the mend and hopes to be on the hunt for that special rock that is out there with our name on it.

Don Baker is to talk about and demonstrate Scrimshaw at the July general meeting.

Displays: Linda Sharr wants to do a display at the Petersburg Llibrary in Michigan featuring all that the Club does.

There is an interest from members to schedule Winter Field Trips at local and regional natural history museums. If anyone knows of a good place where the club can go, let Tom B know.

Meg B1st Ellie 2nd meeting adorned. 8:12p

### Estate Sale Notice

#### **Collection of Robert & Ruth Beauvais**

Member of • Indian Mounds Rock Club • Grand Rapids Mineralogical Society • Ishpeming Rock Club • Past Midwest Federation Michigan State Director

Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 10 AM –6 PM & Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 10 AM - 4 PM

FREE Unclean specimens Sunday 2-4 pm.

3308 Wilson SW Grandville, Michigan 49418

### Soap Stone for Sale

**Patrick O’Riordon**, a former TGRC member, is selling blue, green & brown soap stone for carving. He can be reached at 419-534-3401.

### Amethyst tower for Sale

This beautiful specimen is 18 inches tall at its highest point and 10 inches wide at the base. It is also six and a half inches deep at its deepest point. Price is \$1,500. Call Kim Houser at 419-260-4897.

### **For Sale**



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**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:** Members must call or email the Metroparks Volunteer Center. Make sure to tell them that you are affiliated with the Rock Club. Greenhouse work is needed.

**Group Reports:**

**TBG Liaisons:** see above.

**Gem Crafters:** Going back to 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 9am to 4pm

**Metal Crafters:**

**Intro to Metalsmithing Class:**

Contact Steve Cielinski for the next session at [77stevec@gmail.com](mailto:77stevec@gmail.com).

**July Open Work Sessions:**

Thursday, from 9 am – 12 pm

Thursday, from 6 pm – 9 pm

Thursday, from 9 am – 12 pm

Thursday, from 6 pm – 9 pm

Please be aware that if no one shows up to work in the first hour, the moderator may leave/cancel the session.

**Metal Craft Moderators:**

Gwen Day, Greg Feight, and Brian King.

**Extreme Beaders:** No Change.

**Beaders:** No Change.

**Faceters:** Ellie is asking for people to email him if they are interested in taking a 2<sup>nd</sup> Intro to Faceting Class. Chet King is open to additional members signing up for a hands-on faceting class in the craft center.

**Sunshine:** Our Sunshine Chair, Joe Motter, is himself a bit under the weather. We wish him well and hope to see him in July.

**Juniors:** Interested in doing fieldtrips again? Let us know if you have a trip in mind.

**Field Trips:** The position of Field Trip Coordinator is Open. The FTC's principal duty is to plan and coordinate field trips for the benefit of our members. There are no Field Trips planned for the month of July.

**2018 Rock & Gem Show:** Vender contracts have gone out. Need to get number of hours for security. WiFi might be available. Looking for chips for the kid kits. Looking for enough for 100 kits estimate.

We will possibly order more geodes for the geode cracking station.

Start thinking about what you want to do about your display cases and let Nancy know.

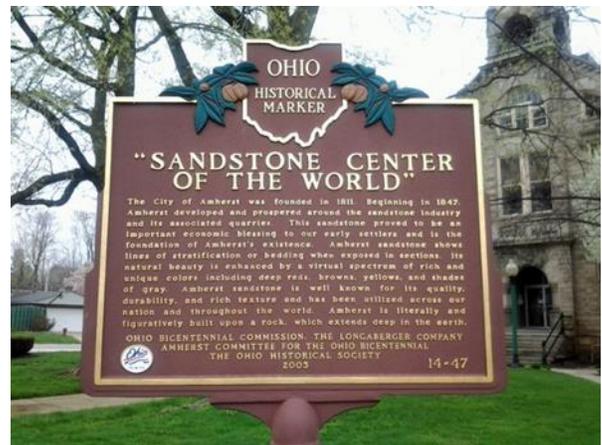


a thickness of more than 200 feet.

Traditionally, the Berea was considered to be of Mississippian age but recently it has been assigned a Late Devonian age. The Berea sandstone formed when sand was carried by streams into the Ohio Sea from the Canadian Shield to the north and from the Catskill Delta to the east. Berea sandstone often exhibits ripple marks. Berea Grit Sandstone is sandwiched between two other layers of stone: below it lies red Bedford limestone, while immediately above it is Berea Shale and Cuyahoga Shale, each about 10 or 15 feet thick. Between the shale and the Berea sandstone is a coat of glacial drift a few inches thick containing ancient fossils. The best layers of Berea Grit were saved for making world-famous grindstones, which required a smooth and even texture, neither too soft nor too hard. These layers also had to be completely free from cracks, flaws, foreign objects, or hard spots. It has a beautiful mixture of colors- gray, buff, yellow, and red. There are some blocks of it in Toledo's Middle grounds Metro park.

The Berea deposit is a medium- to fine-grained sandstone in the vicinity of the type locality at Berea, Ohio, where it was first described and named by in the 1830s. The sandstone was named by John Baldwin (of Baldwin-Wallace College fame). It was very near the surface in Berea, although as the stone formation moves south it dips at a rate of twenty feet to the mile. The first sandstone here was seen by Baldwin because over the years water from Rocky River had removed the covering layers and had exposed the valuable stone at the surface. Berea grit sandstone deposit of northern Ohio cannot be traced either on the surface or in the subsurface into the missed named sandstones of central Pennsylvania and eastern West Virginia that have been named Berea.

Legendary Berea Sandstone is known for its exceptional durability and strength for use in renovation, restoration, architectural and landscape projects as well as grinding stones. Berea sandstone is a sedimentary rock whose grains are predominantly sand-sized and are composed of quartz sand held together by silica. The unique quality of Berea sandstone as a grinding stone is that as the outer surface grows dull with use, the worn particles break off, constantly exposing a fresh and sharp surface for sharpening tools. Berea grit sandstone is world famous, earning Amherst, Ohio the name "the world capital of sandstone". Driving any road around Berea, Strongsville, Amherst, Elyria, and Oberlin, you will see old grinding wheels and plenty of samples for your collection. In fact, samples can be found all over the area. Pieces make great sharpening stones as well. See Mill Stream Park and Elyria for old quarries.



The hardness and durability of Berea Sandstone made it an international building material as well. Structures using Berea sandstone were built in downtown Amherst, Berea, Lorain, Cleveland, Chicago, New York City, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and countless other locations, including South America. The Ohio Statehouse in Columbus and the Canadian Parliament buildings in Ottawa were constructed using Berea sandstone. Local sandstone was used in the construction of several buildings on the campuses of Baldwin Wallace University and Oberlin College. Some other famous buildings include Harvard College's Austin Hall, Cornell Law School, Milwaukee's City Hall, Molson Building in Montreal, and the British Embassy in Washington DC.

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. 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>



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