

Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

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Message from the President

Dear Club Members,

As April showers will bring May flowers, there are a host of other events that Spring will be bringing to The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club. First among these is our Gemcrafters Auction at the next meeting! Donations for the auction are always welcome and can be dropped off at the craft center whenever it is open, as well as the night of the auction. So, look through your rock collections and craft supplies for items to donate. The proceeds will go to the Gemcrafter and will provide funds for equipment upkeep and supplies as well as new equipment

At the same meeting, we will be having our Ugliest Rock Contest! So, find your nastiest, ugliest rock and bring it to the meeting. Those who attend the meeting are the folks who will vote. All I ask is that you keep it clean; nothing obscene please.

We are excited to be hosting our Spring Open House in May. We are looking forward to seeing many geological specimens as well as arts and craft items that our members have been working on over the past year.

With the coming of Spring we expect that we will see many new guests who I know will be amazed by the skill and artistic ability of our Crafters. Let's welcome them.

Our next Executive Board meeting will be held April 14th at 4:00pm in the Craft Center. All club members are welcome to attend Board meetings if they wish. If you have an issue, question or idea to bring to the board's attention, these meetings provide you with the opportunity.

Catherine Clevenz, TGRC President
Clevenz@gmail.com

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2017

Toledo Botanical Garden Conference Center

There were 42 club members present by count; the Membership Chair was not present so a belated sign-in sheet was sent around later in the club meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Cathy Clevenz at 7 p.m. and the pledge of allegiance said by all. Ron Miller gave a presentation on wire wrapped jewelry and brought examples of projects for the monthly wire wrapping classes he is leading for TGRC. To register for April's class, email Terri Jones, Metal Crafter Moderator. The monthly raffle drawing was held immediately after the presentation and the business meeting began at 7:36 p.m.

Michelle Grigore noted that the Secretary's Feb. Club meeting minutes were printed in the Rocky Reader. Cathy Clevenz asked for a motion to approve the Feb. minutes which was made by Tom Marok and seconded by Amy Shufeldt. The club passed the motion.

Michelle then presented the Treasurer's report; copies were available in print for members at the back table. Tom made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Tonia Wallace seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

A mine safety class has been scheduled for April 8th starting at 10 a.m. This class is required for entry to all mines and some quarries. Email Harold Burleson if you'd like to attend the daylong session. It will cost \$30.

Amy noted that we are in need of people to volunteer on Sat. between 2 and 4 p.m. to keep the Craft Center open to the public as part of our agreement with Toledo Botanical Garden. There are many openings later in the year—see Amy or sign up on the sheets in the Craft Center.

Tom B. said that the bylaw review committee is close to completing its draft and will submit a copy to the Board for their April meeting. The club will also see the proposed bylaw changes in April and have time to review them before a vote is taken later in the year. There will be time at the next meeting for open discussion and suggestions. The club policies created over time are all being gathered as well and should be reviewed by the Board at their April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Cathy C. noted that she attended a meeting with the Garden where a new fall exhibit was covered. From Sept. to Oct. Toledo Botanical Garden will charge an entry fee to see the "Garden of Wonders" exhibit—which is 300 statues from Zimbabwe. Club members will have an ID and must use it to enter the garden if they don't want to be charged during the exhibit.

Cathy also announced that we will have an Ugliest Rock competition at the April meeting, so dig out those treasures and bring them in for judging. The Gem Crafter Auction will also take place at that meeting.

Gem Crafter work sessions on Wed. nights and Thur. afternoons will continue as usual. Cathy asked Gem Crafters to choose 3 to 4 members to serve as Moderators so that two can be present at each work session. The cab of the month is petrified wood.

Cathy also asked if members would like to see or hear the the text of a letter sent to [a member] revoking her membership. Eight members said they would, so Cathy read the letter which detailed the reasons for the action. In addition, documentation was made available for members to review after the meeting. Cathy offered to answer any and all questions in regard to this issue after the meeting. Catherine asks members to keep the lines of communication open even if they don't agree with the above action.

GROUP REPORTS

Club liaison with the Gardens – Chet asked people to sign up for the May Plant Sale and noted that the February Seed Swap was good fun. The Plant Sale takes place Mother's Day weekend.

Metal Crafters – Terri Jones had a list of the April meeting dates/times: April 2 (PMC leaf class which is full), April 6 – Ron Millers wire wrapping class (space available and sign-up sheet at the meeting), April 9 – work session from 1 to 3 p.m., April 12 – work session from 6 to 9 p.m., April 13 – ring/pendant class for beginners or basic torching class depending on need from 6 to 9 p.m., April 20-work session from 6 to 9 p.m. and April 23 work session from 1 to 3 p.m.

Tom B. noted that Terri has cleaned and organized the Metal Crafter area and they are in the process of labeling all chemicals and assuring safe storage. The back door of the Craft Center was examined by the Gardens and pronounced functional but there are doubts that the door is truly an approved fire exit. Tom will file another work order for the door. It needs a secure way to lock it and a traditional handle to replace the make-shift lever. If need be, the club will purchase and install a lockset and handle.

Open House - Nancy Grove said there were still a few tables left for the May Open House. Call or see her if you want to reserve one and display your craft for sale that day. Participants can set up beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday, May 6th. We are in need of a few Gem Tree helpers during the Open House any time between 10 am-5 pm; no experience required. Nancy asked that Steve S. create and bring fliers to the April meeting so club members can help advertise the May Open House to the public. She also asked members to advertise to their contacts on Social Media. Members may bring their own meals or choose to order out as has been done for past Open Houses. Contact Show Chair, Nancy Grove at (419) 332-3624 with questions or to volunteer.

Beaders – Nancy also noted that Beaders are back on schedule to meet Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. From March to May they are working on crocheting beads. Their work day needs to be added to the online calendar; Tom will ask Steve S. to do so.

Extreme Beaders – Kathy noted they are meeting on Tuesdays from 9 to 4 as usual.

Facetors – Elie G. noted that the email in the Rocky Reader is incorrect because it is missing a period. He will set up a two-day faceting training if there is enough interest. Elie will also teach gem crafting at any scheduled work session after letting him know you need training. Contact Elie at [419-450-0160](tel:419-450-0160) eghanime@buckeye-express.com

Weekend Facetors – Chet said two people showed up last week. They continue to meet on the Second Saturday and Sunday in April from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunshine – Tom noted that Harold B. was having surgery today, which is why he wasn't at the club meeting. A card was passed around for well wishes at the meeting.

Juniors – since Steve S. wasn't present, it was a general report that the Juniors moved from Sunday to the fourth Saturday to help meet the club's requirement for keeping the Craft Center open from 2 to 4 p.m.

Rock & Gem Show - Tom M. noted he needs lots of donated materials for the Children's Area at the Sept. Show. Things like toys, shells, stones, marbles, pencils, etc. are welcome. Bring them to a meeting or contact Tom Marok. Amy S. said she needs volunteers to make gem trees and kits for the show.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Tom B. noted this would be a regular addition to club meetings. This month, he noted that the club has a library full of great books that can be checked out. He reviewed how to do that and noted that a black light has also been donated so you can bring in rocks and check them for fluorescence.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Tom M./ seconded by Elie and Amy at 8:30 p.m.

Michelle Grigore, Acting Secretary

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Brittan Tolford, Delta, OH
Ron Miller, Lima, OH
Peg Francisco, Perrysburg, OH

TBG: IN THE GARDEN EVENTS

TBG Saturdays: Volunteers Needed

We need your smiling faces! Volunteers are asked to greet visitors each Saturday from 2-4 PM to the Craft Center to see what our Club is all about. There are openings available from April through the end of July. A list is available for sign-up at meetings and in the Craft

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Center. Contact Amy Shufeldt at (419) 367-2131 or shufrog@roadrunner.com

April 8, 2017 [Hort Education Series: Session 3](#)
9:00 am – Noon
Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo OH

Fee: \$25 per session /\$20 for TBG members

Call to register: (419) 536-2039

Spring Plant Sale

May 11, 2017 [Spring Plant Sale: Bubbles & Buds Member Preview](#) 4:00 – 8:00 pm

May 12, 2017 Friday, 12:00 – 8:00 pm

May 13, 2017 Saturday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

May 14, 2017 Sunday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm *Toledo Botanical Garden, Greenhouse off Bancroft Ave.*

Thelma Postlewate's Family News: April Birthdays

Su Drake 1
Nathan Slawinski 4
Ruth Jacobs 5
Suzanne Shimatzki 9
Linda Scharer 12
Grace Amonette 15

Linda McConahey 16
Brittan Tolford Wallace 17
Serenity Shimatzki 23
SimonAmonette 27
Amy Shufeldt 27

FACETEERS

Elie Ghaimé teaches a full 2-days of faceting theory for up to 12 people at the time, if you are interested please send me an email confirmation to: therockman@gmail.com. Chet King will teach hands-on faceting classes on the SECOND weekend of the month. Chet will take up to two people for this short introduction. Call Chet (419-841-4272) for more information.

FIELD TRIPS

NEW - Mine Safety Training will be offered on Saturday, April 8th, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at St. James Lutheran Church, 4727 W. Sylvania Ave., Toledo, Ohio. The cost to attend is \$30.00. Contact Harold Burleson hburle@msn.com or haroldburleson12@gmail.com to register and to be informed of future field trips. Many quarries now require up to date Mine Safety training for admission.

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 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 for more information.

GEMCRAFTERS

The Gem Crafters meet on Wednesdays beginning at 6:30 PM and Thursdays beginning at 12:00 PM. (Closed every third Wednesday due to the club meeting). If you are interested in lapidary and wish to register for training please contact Catherine Clevenz at clevenz@gmail.com

JUNIORS

The Juniors have elected to change our current meeting schedule to 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.

Juniors is 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.

The March juniors will talk about ways to polish rocks including things for home projects like rock tumblers. Any other questions about the juniors, Please ask Steve Shimatzki. E-mail: sis132@gmail.com or call: 567-868-8794



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METALCRAFTERS

The upcoming wire wrapping class will be held on April 6th at 6:00 pm in the Craft Center. Class size is 10 people. The cost is to be determined but will be nominal. April's class offering is "3 Rings: Single Bead, Crushed Bead and Twisted Wire." No experience is necessary. The following is a list of planned Wire Wrap classes* that will be featured through the end of 2017.

May 4 th	Square Knot Bracelet w/Beads (Full)
June 1 st	Reverse Wrap Cab Pendant
July 6 th	John Darlin Bracelet
August 3 rd	7 Wire Bracelet
September 7 th	Pharo's Cab Ring
October 5 th	Nefertiti Bracelet
November 9 th	Nefertiti Pendant & Earrings
December 7 th	All Wire Sculpture Pendant

*Dates Subject to change.

PMC Leaf Class

Metalcrafters is conducting a PMC Leaf Class on the 2nd of April. Unfortunately, this class is full as we already have six members signed up. Keep checking back in case we have a last-minute opening. We are considering setting up another PMC class later this year if there is enough interest. Please e-mail Terri Jones, terrijones54@gmail.com for more information.

Introduction to Metalsmithing Class

Do you feel uneasy around a torch or never have used one? Do you know nothing or very little about metalsmithing and want to learn? We have a 3 hr. "Introduction to Metalsmithing" class designed to get one comfortable around equipment and improve knowledge of equipment, safety, and materials. You will learn how to cut metals in a variety of ways, such as using a jeweler saw, sanding and buffing metal, annealing, heat and work hardening the metal. You will also learn about flux, solder and Fire-scale prevention. You will enjoy making a simple copper sculpture, which will give you the confidence to make a pendant or ring. In fact, we give you the sterling silver and cabochon to make one at the end of your training. Or, if you already possess the skills in metalsmithing, we will give you the materials to show your ability to work safely in our shop. A bargain at only \$10.00 for club members!

Upcoming Events from Chet King's Flyer Table

The following is a partial listing of upcoming events in our region and around the country. Let us know if you visit any.

April

8-9th Columbus, Ohio 43RD Annual Central Ohio Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale, Northland Performing Arts Center, 4411 Tamarack Blvd., **Columbus, Ohio** 43229 in Northland Village West of Menards and behind the new Kroger. Free parking. **Sat 10 AM-6 PM & Sun. 11AM-5PM, [Bring a Show Flyer for \\$1 off](#)** the admission of Adults \$7, Seniors \$6, Youth 6-16 \$3; FREE under 6yrs, Scouts in uniform & 4H, Teachers & Military with ID.

Terri Ryan says that they are continuing to liquidate through the adult silent auction a collection from a former rock shop of specimens and cutting material, as well as several other collections the club has received. This is in addition to the regular silent auction items supplied by club members. Some exceptional items are; Petrified wood, Agate and Mexican Onyx. Dealer contact: Craig Kramer 614-436-4511 or craig.kramer@wowwary.com

Rocky Readers take to Surfing (the Web)

On these cold late Winter days, I find that I have more time to surf the Web on my computer. Rather than play games or shop for that latest gizmo on Amazon I have discovered YouTube. YouTube is a place where you can watch any number of movies, documentaries or DIY videos on just about any subject that you are interested; **for FREE!** Lately I have been watching a lot of videos on rockhounding. In just a few minutes you can travel to Holbrook, Arizona to find Petrified wood or maybe an Oregon beach to search for Jadeite cobbles. You can dig for Geodes and then crack them open without leaving your couch. If you would like to learn how to slab a rock, cut out a section of a slab to make a Cabochon or tune up your crafting tools, Youtube is your classroom.

Of course, having the actual experience of finding special rocks and then using lapidary techniques to make beautiful specimens and jewelry is better than just watching a computer, ipad or iphone screen. However, YouTube can give you the inspiration to plan that next "Rock-cation" or create a beautiful piece of jewelry. You may even find new friends that will help you to achieve your goals a lot sooner than you might if you tried to learn a new skill on your own. This week I stumbled upon a series of videos that were made by our own Elie [Ghanime](#). So, if you're out there Googleing check out Elie's YouTube videos. If they help you like they did me, give him a "like," share them with friends and subscribe so that you don't miss any new ones. Even better, should you post your own

videos on YouTube let us know so we can feature it in future Rocky Readers. The next time your Grand Kids ask what you have been doing lately you can say that, in addition to Rockhounding, you've taken up surfing. How cool is that ?

Rock of Ages

I'm sure that, like me, many of you have imagined what it would be like to collect a truly unique rock specimen one day. Something on the order of a Martian Meteorite, a rare dinosaur fossil or a fantastic gemstone is a dream of any Rockhound. But what if you already have a specimen in your collection that has only recently been identified as the oldest evidence of organic life on the planet. Read on the following article and if you're like me you'll be thinking that a trip to Quebec this Summer may be just what the Geologist ordered. Rock On.

T. Barnhizer, Editor

[World's oldest fossils unearthed](#)

Date: March 1, 2017,

Source: University College London

Remains of microorganisms at least 3,770 million years old have been discovered by an international team led by UCL scientists, providing direct evidence of one of the oldest life forms on Earth.

Tiny filaments and tubes formed by bacteria that lived on iron were found encased in quartz layers in the Nuvvuagittuq Supracrustal Belt (NSB), Quebec, Canada.

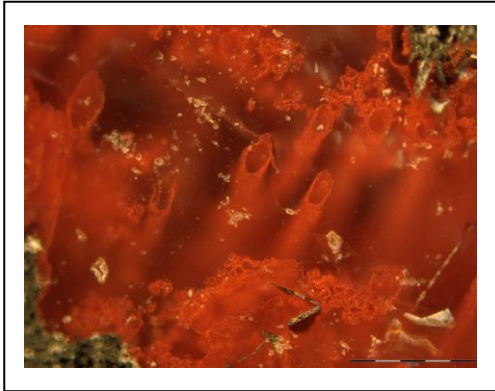
The NSB contains some of the oldest sedimentary rocks known on Earth which likely formed part of an iron-rich deep-sea hydrothermal vent system that provided a habitat for Earth's first life forms between 3,770 and 4,300 million years ago. "Our discovery supports the idea that life emerged from hot, seafloor vents shortly after planet Earth formed. This speedy appearance of life on Earth fits with other evidence of recently discovered 3,700 million year old sedimentary mounds that were shaped by microorganisms," explained first author, PhD student Matthew Dodd (UCL Earth Sciences and the London Centre for Nanotechnology).



Published today in *Nature* and funded by UCL, NASA, Carnegie of Canada and the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the study describes the discovery and the detailed analysis of the remains undertaken by the team from UCL, the Geological Survey of Norway, US Geological Survey, The University of Western Australia, the University of Ottawa and the University of Leeds.

Prior to this discovery, the oldest microfossils reported were found in Western Australia and dated at 3,460 million years old but some scientists think they might be non-biological artefacts in the rocks. It was therefore a priority for the UCL-led team to determine whether the remains from Canada had biological origins.

The researchers systematically looked at the ways the tubes and filaments, made of hematite -- a form of iron oxide or 'rust' -- could have been made through non-biological methods such as temperature and pressure changes in the rock during burial of the sediments, but found all of the possibilities unlikely.



Fossilized Hematite tubes from the NSB hydrothermal region.

The hematite structures have the same characteristic branching of iron-oxidizing bacteria found near other hydrothermal vents today and were found alongside graphite and minerals like apatite and carbonate which are found in biological matter including bones and teeth and are frequently associated with fossils.

They also found that the mineralized fossils are associated with spheroidal structures that usually contain fossils in younger rocks, suggesting that the hematite most likely formed when bacteria that oxidized iron for energy were fossilized in the rock.

"We found the filaments and tubes inside centimeter-sized structures called concretions or nodules, as well as other tiny spheroidal structures, called rosettes and granules, all of which we think are the products of putrefaction. They are mineralogically identical to those in younger rocks from Norway, the Great Lakes area of North America and Western Australia," explained study lead, Dr Dominic Papineau (UCL Earth Sciences and the London Centre for Nanotechnology).

"The structures are composed of the minerals expected to form from putrefaction, and have been well documented throughout the geological record, from the beginning until today. The fact we unearthed them from one of the oldest known rock formations, suggests we've found direct evidence of one of Earth's oldest life forms. This discovery helps us piece together the history of our planet and the remarkable life on it, and will help to identify traces of life elsewhere in the universe."

Matthew Dodd concluded, "These discoveries demonstrate life developed on Earth at a time when Mars and Earth had liquid water at their surfaces, posing exciting questions for extra-terrestrial life. Therefore, we expect to find evidence for past life on Mars 4,000 million years ago, or if not, Earth may have been a special exception."

To learn more go to: <http://www.sci-news.com/paleontology/worlds-oldest-fossils-canada-04661.html>

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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