



The Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter of The
Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club

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January 2019

Message from the President

Dear Club Members,

We ended 2018 having a fun time at the potluck meeting. Congratulations to Michelle Grigore for winning 1st place, and Katherine Smarkel winning 2nd place in the Christmas ornament contest. I would also like to thank Dr. Quentin Skrabec for his presentation on coke furnaces. We have a few field trips in the works for this year Starting with one at the Toledo Museum of Art in January. So, with some new Officers, Board Members and a new Juniors program this year, we are sure to have great times!

Looking forward to seeing all of you during the coming year!

Happy Holidays!

Catherine Clevenz, President

The Garage is Cleared!!!

We've almost cleared. We have begun moving all of our show related materials to a unit at Outback Storage off of Dorr Street in Toledo. Our storage unit is a little over 2 miles away from the Garden and will provide us with a safe, secure and dry place to hold most of our tools, machines, rocks, minerals and supplies. The garage, as most of you are aware, is to be used to store lumber for projects in the Garden that will be undertaken by the Metro-parks in the year ahead. I want to thank Jim Hintz and my wife, Meg, for giving up their time and a few sore muscles to get most of our supplies moved before the holiday. I also want to thank Ron Miller for his generous donation and Chet King for his pledge that allowed us to purchase new shelving. At this point we still have a bit more to move before the new year but with your help we can get it done.



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The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club News.

January 2019

TGRC Induction of New Officers

At the December general meeting the newly elected Officers were officially inducted.

President – Catherine Clevenz

Vice President – Peggy Argabright

Secretary – Katherine Smarkel

Treasurer – Glen Toepfer

Sergeant At Arms – Chet King

New Board Member(s) (3 yr term) – Meg Barnhizer and Mike Mayers

Existing Board Member – Kathy Peterson

2018 Lifetime Members Announced

The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Board of Directors recently voted to appoint two new Lifetime Members in December. Pete and Kathy Peterson have been actively supporting the club for years and have held a number of positions of leadership in the Club. Pete was a past Treasurer and Kathy presently serves on the Board of Directors. Lifetime Members are recognized for their outstanding efforts to make the Club successful. Please congratulate Pete and Kathy.

Upcoming Meeting Announcement

In January, we will once again meet in the TBG Artist's Club on Jan. 16th at 7 pm.

Decembers Featured Speaker: Dr Quentin Skrabek

The December **Rock Talk** was presented by Dr. Quentin Skrabek who enlightened our members with his presentation entitled **Ohio Charcoal Iron furnaces 1803 to 1880.** Dr. Skrabek provided historical facts about Ohio's quest to smelt iron that was rooted in Ohio's rich geological resources. He explained the process of refining different iron ores beginning with the most primitive technologies that supplied pig iron to support agriculture and the production of Cannon and other munitions for the Civil War through WW-1. These pioneering technologies made Ohio a key player until new technologies caused the production of iron to shift to Pittsburg PA at the turn of the 20th Century. Members may want to consider adding some of the geologic specimens that can be found across southern Ohio to their rock and mineral collections.



Ready availability of timber for charcoal and later coal for coke and limestone for flux made Ohio an early entry into the fledgling iron smelting industry.

Web Page Update

Tonya Wallace has begun the daunting task of updating our Club's Webpage. Some features were temporarily interrupted but have since been restored. Log in and check it out. We look forward to seeing more changes in the new year. Also, don't forget to check in on our 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.

Metroparks Events & Volunteer Opportunities

Wildwood Manor House

Manor House tours. This popular volunteer opportunity is a great way to learn about the park and its history. Must be at least 16 years old. Sign up through Volgistics or contact Kelly Griffin at Kelly.griffin@metroparkstoledo.com for more information.

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/. In addition, when you volunteer at least 15 hours of your time you can purchase a Metroparks membership at half price.

Garden Keepers

March – November; Flexible Schedule

Wildwood, Pearson, Middlegrounds and Oak Openings

We are looking for volunteers to adopt 1 or more landscape beds at the parks listed to maintain throughout the season. Gardening experience is not necessary but helpful. Training will be provided. A minimum commitment of 25 hours is required. If you are interested or would like to learn more, contact Lori at lori.miller@metroparkstoledo.com

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> .

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MWF dues are requested to be paid by January 15th. This year any club with juniors, who pay their dues on time will be eligible to receive The Mini Miners Monthly by email.. Sandy Fuller reminded members that the MWF Endowment Fund interest pays 25 cents per member of the insurance for all clubs that pay dues **on time**. The MWF Newsletter provided the club renewal and calendar forms for us to complete and return with our annual dues.

Rock & Gem magazine wants to use articles from our newsletters. David said anything used by Rock & Gem would need to be fully credited to the author, however, the organizations logo is not to be used. Article use can be coordinated with Valerie J. Meyers, Newsletter Editor, acting as the MWF liaison. Rock & Gem also needs club information by September. They are completely redoing their club information section. **Each club needs to submit their information to Rock & Gem directly.** Members were reminded if they do not want their information on the MWF website, there is a box to check so it won't be used, however, it will still go in the directory. We (MWF) need contact information for the officers of the club so we can reach them if necessary.

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.

Heralding the Holidays a Resounding Success

The Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club joined with the other Artist Village Resident Organizations exhibiting artwork and handmade crafts, herbs and herbal products along with artist demonstrations the first weekend this past December at The Toledo Botanical Gardens Metro-park. Show participants were Michelle Gregorie, Jim and Marcia Hintz, Linda Erbland, Sandy Collins and Nick Greiser.



The December Heralding the Holidays show was well attended despite the wet weather.

The Annual Rock and Gem Show.

Show Dates in 2019 will be Sept. 6, 7, and 8th with set-up on Sept. 5th. Steve Shimatzki has once again agreed to be Show Chair with the assistance of his wife Suzanna. 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 get them to Steve as soon as possible so that he can work them in if possible.

Donations:

The Club was recently the beneficiary of a significant rock and mineral collection and related lapidary equipment and supplies from the family of John Hull. In addition, Scott McMunn and Sandy Collins donated several rock tumblers to our new Juniors Future Rockhounds of America Program. 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 January Cabochon of the Month is a mystery Agate. We need your help in identifying this deep red and grey banded Agate that is guaranteed to make a beautiful cabochon.

Open work sessions:

Saturdays; Jan 5, 12, 19 and 26th from 10am to 4pm with Joanna Toepfer moderating.

Wednesdays: Jan 2 9 23 and 30th from 6 to 9 pm with Chet King moderating and Tom Barnhizer in training.

Thursdays: Jan 3 10 17 24 and 31st 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.

Gem Crafter Moderators: Thanks to Joanna Toepfer and Chet King.

FACETERS:

Elie Ghanime is asking for members to email him at eg.therockman@gmail.com if they are interested in taking a 2nd **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.

Brian will be available Saturdays for Weekend open sessions. This is in addition to the regular Metal Crafters Sessions on Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Please email Brian at bking3@me.com if you would like to attend so we 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 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 WINTER/SPRING CLEANING???

Once again it is time to think about cleaning up the Craft Center 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. 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 depending on what we decide to do and how much help we can get. 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.

TRGC JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS:

We have 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 5th 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:

Tom Barnhizer has volunteered to make 2 presentations on Rocks and Minerals for Longfellow Middle School in Toledo on January 16th.

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 could be scheduled as early as January 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 Slab Saw

Most likely one of the first tools that you will encounter in the Craft Center will be the Slab Saw. Slabbing, or slicing, rocks and some mineral specimens is a basic skill of a Lapidary artist. Even if you're only a Rockhound or collector you may still want to slice off a surface of a specimen to observe it's interior or to prepare it for mounting or display. Slabbing is necessary in most cases to prepare a specimen for cabbing or to isolate a specific portion of a rock for other processes. While a slab saw is capable of cutting most rocks, they should **NEVER be used to cut Sandstone, metals or rocks that contain metal.** Doing so would remove the diamond coated surface from the blade making it useless.

The Club owns four Slab Saws in sizes from 10 to 20 inches. The bigger the rock...the larger the saw that is required to cut it. The Three 18-inch Slab Saws are capable of cutting rocks up to 6 inches in height and about 9 inches in length. They are the workhorses of the gem-craft center. The belt-driven 18 inch blade runs below the cutting table where it picks up oil to both lubricate and cool the cutting surface. Should the oil level fall too low the blade will be destroyed and the stone itself may explode. Any material that is to be cut must be securely locked in a vice that is attached to the carriage. Each of our slab saws utilize a mechanism that turns a screw that automatically feeds the specimen into the saw blade at a set speed. For obvious reasons safety is a big factor when using these rock cutting monsters. One should never lift the hood of a slab saw nor leave the saw unattended while it is operating.

At a minimum, you need to remember to inspect any machine tool before you begin using it. Make sure that the power to the saw at the wall switch is off to prevent it from accidentally starting while working inside the hood. As was said earlier any slabbing of stone requires cutting oil to be in contact with the saw blade to keep the cutting surface cool and the cut itself smooth. Check the level of the cutting oil to make sure that $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of the saw blade is below the surface of the oil and that there are no obstructions to the blades' moving such as debris, tools or broken mechanisms. 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. Repair or replace any loose or broken items and add or replace lubricant as needed before you begin work. If you are unable to make repairs or adjustments move to another machine and report the problem to the session Moderator.

When preparing to slab a stone it is first necessary to make a plan how best to do it safely and effectively. You'll want to get the most usable material as possible from each stone but not at the expense of safety. Once you have decided how you will make your cuts you can determine how the stone will need to be secured during the slabbing process. Most stones will be clamped within the vise between two wooden face blocks using the screw handle on the rear of the carriage. It may be necessary to insert additional blocks or shims to make the stone secure. If all of this fails, you can clamp the specimen in a machined "jig" that uses steel jaws or pins to lock the piece into position then secure the jig into the vise. Once the stone is secure you will need to position it for cutting. Make sure that the stone is not in contact with the table surface or any inner panels. With the stone well back from the blade turn the feed screw on the right of the carriage to move the stone into the path of the saw blade. This first cut should remove any uneven surface of the stone to allow parallel slabs to be cut. (When cutting a geode or preparing a specimen for display you may extend the stone past its center while assuring that it will not contact any interior surfaces during the cut). Once the stone is positioned lift the carriage release lever and slide the mechanism forward slowly until the stone makes contact with the saw blade then immediately pull the stone back slightly and release the lever. *At this time, you can opt to attach the carriage auto-feed cut-off if desired.** Give the stone one last jerk and if still tight, close the hood completely. Turn on the main power switch on the wall then pull back on the switch on the front of the saw that will engage the carriage feed screw. Listen for the initial contact of the blade on the stone and continue to monitor the operation until the cut-off switch activates or you can hear the cut complete. Should you notice any unusual noise or vibration or if you need to inspect the cutting operation shut the saw off and wait for the blade to stop before lifting the

hood.

When each slab has finished cutting, push in on the feed switch at the front of the saw and let the blade come to a complete stop before lifting the hood. This allows for any harmful gases or vaporized particles to settle. Turning off the power to the saw at the wall switch will prevent it from accidentally starting while you are working inside the hood. Raise the hood and secure it. Lift the carriage release lever and pull the vice to the rear until it the stone is clear of the blade. Remove the slab that separated from the stone paying attention to the area between the saw blade and the interior frame. While most slabs will fall away from the saw blade it is not unusual for thin slabs to lodge in this area or fall completely into the oil reservoir below. With the slab removed carefully turn the outer carriage screw to once again move the stone into the path of the saw. Usually this will require 4–5 complete turns to create a 1/4 to 5/16th inch slab. Once you have removed the first slab simply repeat the above steps until you can no longer safely make additional cuts. An alternative method requires that you remove the stone from the vise following the first cut. After cleaning, glue the flatten surface to a wooden block with a small amount of Water Glass (Sodium Silicate). Let it set for 24 hours before securing the block in the vice to complete the slabbing operation. The final slab is then removed from the block by placing it in a bucket of water over-night to dissolve the Water Glass.

While the above actions are specific to the larger saws many of the steps outlined are very similar for the smaller bladed saws. Individual slab saws differ only in how they are powered and lubricated, however, the steps to be followed for cutting specimens and safe operation are generally the same.

When you have finished slabbing give the machine a good cleaning by wiping surfaces free of excess oil and debris into the oil reservoir. Add oil to the reservoir if 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 carriage area before closing the hood. Finally, check once again to assure that all electricity shut off.

Next month's **Tool Talk** will focus in on the safety, operation and maintenance of the **Trim Saw**. We all depend upon each other to keep our Craft Center operation safe, clean and efficient. Always feel free to share your own knowledge with other members who may not be as familiar as yourself.

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

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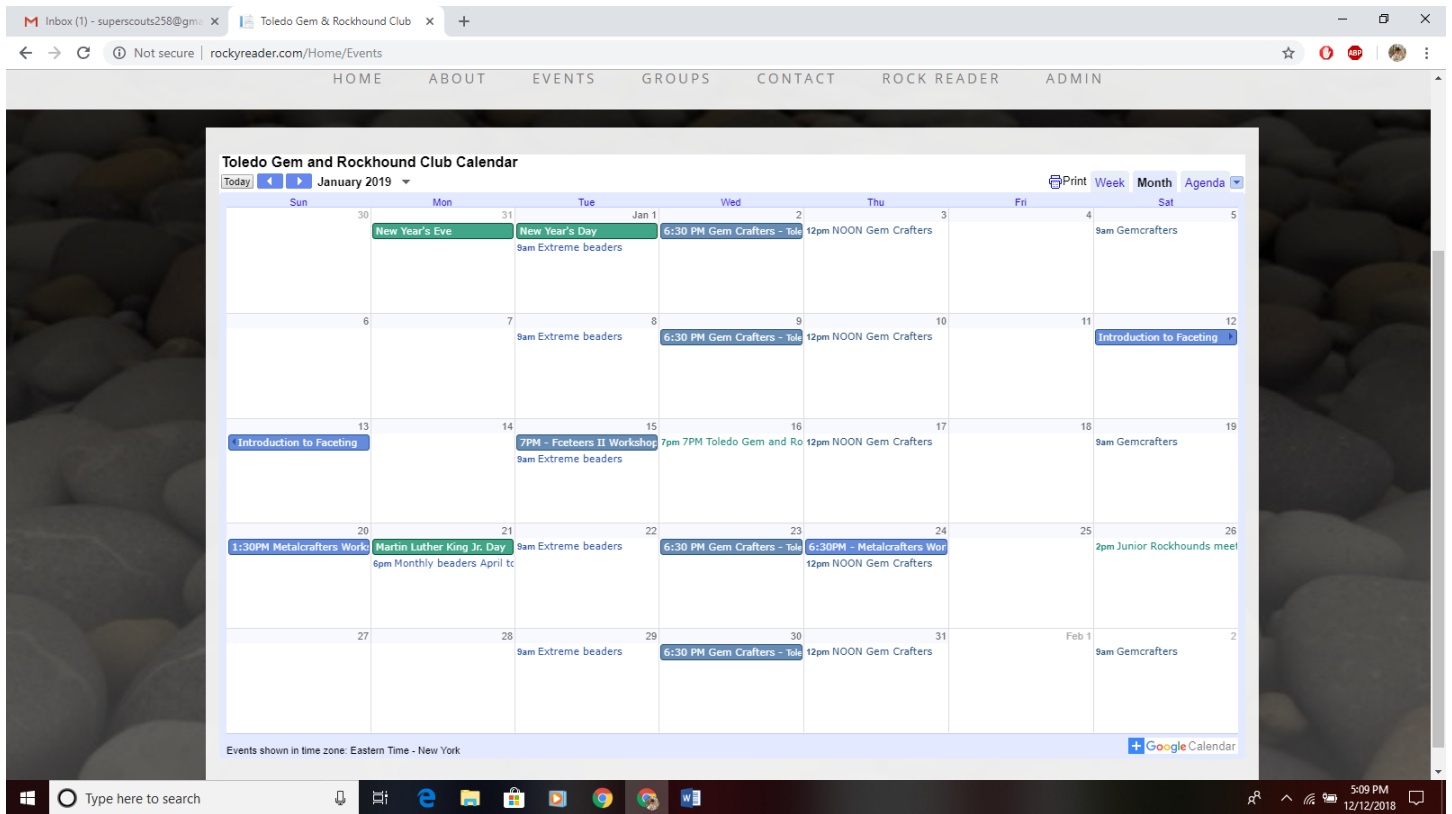
We welcome Frank's Rock Shop and Gems as a new advertiser to the Rocky Reader. Owner, Frank Kramic, would like to encourage you to visit his establishment open Monday through Saturday, 10am to 7 pm, in Morenci, Michigan just 40 minutes West of Sylvania on Ohio Rte 120. Frank has a large selection of 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>



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The above calendar screen shot may be seen more easily by using the View menu to Zoom into the page, however, you will need to go to the webpage at <http://www.rockyreader.com/Home/Events> to use any interactive features.