



Rocky Reader

<http://www.rockyreader.com>

The Monthly Newsletter of the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club



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May 2015

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President's Message

If you were not able to make it to the April meeting, you really missed out! The sale and live auction were a huge success and an excellent time. Thank you to everyone involved, from those who organized to those who donated, from those who came to buy to the runners delivering their goods! You should all be very proud. There were several new members in attendance who came up to pay or just to say hello during the live auction. One of them told me that he had been invited by the Wheelers and that he was very impressed with our club. He commented on the organization, the calendars, and made it very clear that he was having a great time. We have a rare and wonderful thing going on at this club. Keep that up!

The next couple of months will be very busy. I'm going to try to keep my emails to one a week, but spring is a busy time at the garden and for our club. Please watch your email for updates on events as I send those out and please come out and join in!

I mistakenly scheduled the Financial Forum over the May potluck. Since rescheduling food seems like something that would get me in the most trouble with everyone, I have decided to reschedule the Financial Forum meetings. I got great feedback about holding those types of meetings as round table discussions rather than adding onto the general meeting, so we are going to try that. The first installment will be held on Sunday May 17th in the Craft Center starting at 4:00PM.

See you soon,
Tonia Wallace, President

May Meeting: May Meeting: Potluck

The May Club meeting begins with a potluck dinner. We will start dinner promptly at 6:10pm so please arrive by 6:00pm to set out your dish. Everybody who comes is asked to bring a meat dish plus a:

- **dessert** if your LAST name begins with **K-Z** or
- **vegetable dish** if your LAST name begins with **A-J** Please remember to bring your own plates and utensils

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Show News:

Our club is doing great because of our membership. It is because of our members that our show is a success. I would like to express my gratitude to all the club's volunteers who donate their hours and labor for the show.

John Capuano

Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting Monday May 11 - 7PM in the Craft Center

Financial Forum - **RESCHEDULED** - Sunday May 17th in the Craft Center 4-5:30PM

Potluck Diner: Preceding the May meeting - 6:00PM in the Conference Center

Garden After Dark: May 30th 7PM - 11PM

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes April 15, 2015

The Meeting started with a pre-sale of Gemcraft items that were sold as Buy-it-now items prior to the General Meeting and the eventual live auction.

The General Meeting started at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

March Secretary Report: moved for approval by Bonnie Wheeler & seconded by Greg Feight.

March Treasurer Report: LuAnne had an adjustment from the previous month. There was a mistake and money had been recorded as donations toward the building fund from the Metalcrafters, but was meant for the Metalcraft account. The adjustment was made to the April report. The Finance Report was moved for approval by Tom Marok and seconded by Harry Snodgrass.

Old Business:

Tonia said that she had not yet finalized a decision for the MWF Conference nominee, as she had wanted someone to go who had not yet had the chance. Others would have until the end of the auction to come forward if they were interested and a decision would need to be made by the end of the week.

New Business:

Tonia announced that there would be a board meeting on Monday May 11 at 7:00PM.

Tonia also discussed the Financial Forum meeting, which will be held on May 20th at 6:00PM preceding the General Meeting in the Conference Center. She said that this was not a fire drill and that the club is healthy, but that she wants to give people an opportunity to brainstorm and give input so that we can keep it that way. Other points were that:

- The May Open House is fully funded
- We have insurance to cover involvement from the public in classes, not just for members, but we will need to discuss what that means for us and come up with some sound internal policies that we are comfortable with.
- Due to some open questions about the audit, we will not be making any adjustments to the finances of the satellite groups until after the May meeting.

There is an opportunity to promote the club at an event on May 30th called Garden After Dark. This is a ticketed event, it is themed around light, and will be centralized in the artists village. We have agreed to demonstrate torch fired enameling, volunteers were asked for and Shirley Stieb agreed to help Tonia with that demonstration.

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Group Reports:

Gemcrafters: Bonnie thanked everyone for coming to the auction and said that the next cab cutting class would be held on Monday May 18th from 1:00-6:00 PM.

Faceteers: Elie said that the faceting class was cancelled due to lack of interest and that he would try again in the fall.

Metalcrafters: Tonia said that Debby was unable to attend the meeting because she had been ill, but to read the rocky reader and that there is an upcoming spoon class that still has a few open seats.

Beaders: Nancy said that they will meet on Mondays from 6:00PM until the park closes and that she will help if you need a starter project.

Extreme Beaders: Still meeting on their regular Tuesday daytime schedule.

Juniors: Steve said that they are continuing to meet on the 4th Sunday of each month and are working on cutting cabochons. He has acquired additional equipment so that they do not need to use the Gemcrafter equipment.

Field trips: Harold said that there is an MSHA Class in South Bend Indiana and that the information will be in the Rocky Reader. He is working on getting us our own class from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Show: John said that he was having a work day on the Sunday following the meeting starting at 9:00AM and that he had gotten an agreement from Sandy Cline to demonstrate at the show. Sandy is a stone carver. Steve added that vendors are starting to respond and that the applications continue to trickle in as the normally do.

Open House: May is fully funded and November funding will be discussed at upcoming meetings. Ruby said that she still had a couple of tables left. Chet added that he needs fliers to deliver in order to promote the show.

Rocky Reader Lyn said that the deadline is the Monday following the meeting and to please respect that.

Gardens News: Annual Plant Sale is on May 8th thought the 10th. There is a pre-sale the day prior where anyone who is a member at the gardens can get discounted rates and first pick of the plants.

After a call for last comments Greg Feight moved that we adjourn the meeting and John Capuano seconded.

A lively auction followed.

Submitted by Tonia Wallace

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GROUPS

BEADERS

Monthly Beaders have resumed. Contact Nancy if you are interested..

EXTREME BEADERS

Extreme Beaders continue to meet on the weekly schedule, Tuesdays, 9-5, at the Craft Center. Extreme Beaders attendees should be able to work independently and have their own projects, materials and supplies. New attendees interested in Bead Embroidery should contact Shirley Stieb or Kathy Petersen for a materials list, and to schedule initial instruction, if necessary. Extreme Beaders are often working on Thursday afternoons, during Open Gemcrafter days. If interested in beading or instruction during these times, check with Shirley Stieb or Kathy Petersen to verify that beaders will be working that week.

FACETEERS

Faceteers have regular meetings the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the craft center. Please contact Elie if you have questions.

GEMCRAFTERS

Many thanks to our generous donors and buyers who made the annual Gem Crafter Auction & Sale a huge success. We are well on our way to raising the money to purchase the new piece of equipment that will compliment our workshop. Watch for a mini flash sale this summer at the craft center.

Cabochon Training will be held on Monday, May 18 from 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the craft center. This class is for all adult members who wish to learn to create cabochons using our saws, grinders, polishers and drill presses. We will provide material to create your first cabochon. You must complete the training before you can use our equipment. Please wear long pants and shoes - no sandals, flip flops, etc. Contact Natalie Hill to reserve your space in the class.

Your Gem Crafter Moderators

Bonnie Wheeler Natalie Hill Greg Feight Chet King

METALCRAFTERS

CLASSES

The following schedule is a listing of upcoming classes. To enroll, please make a check out to the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club and send it to Debra Hoffmaster, 950 Michigan Ave, Adrian, MI 49221

May 9, 10AM. Spoon jewelry (1 openings). Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. Fee of \$35 to be sent to Debby Hoffmaster and RECEIVED (not postmarked) by April 25. Participants in the class will be provided with one sterling silver demitasse spoon and two plated utensils from which it is possible to form a ring, bracelet and pendant.

METALCRAFTER MEETINGS

The Metalcrafters will meet May 3, 14, 17 and 28. Sunday meetings are from 1:30 - 3:30 and Thursday meetings are from 6:30-8:30.

The **Third Sunday Project** will be a simple bypass ring. Patterned base metals will be provided for the ring. In addition, those who did not finish their washer setting can finish it on that day. If you want to do both, there should be no problem. .

We are a collaborative group. We expect that members have their own materials and sufficient experience to work independently. If you are new to silver work, please register for the basic pendant class on March 21. If you are new to the group but have previous experience please e-mail me (debhoffmaster@gmail.com) to arrange orientation during a scheduled meeting.

If you are new to the group but have previous experience please e-mail me (debhoffmaster@gmail.com) to

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arrange orientation during a scheduled meeting .

RockyReader: deadline is Monday after the meeting for all material. Please send any news, changes to classes or announcements to editor@rockyreader.com.

Events From Chetty King's Table:

May1-3—Kalamazoo, MI: Annual show; Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society, Kalamazoo County Expo Center; 2900 Lake St.; Fri. 4:00 pm-8:00 pm, Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Admission \$3, Children under 12 free; 1 Proceeds go to scholarships for WMU Geology students.; contact Jerry VanNocker, (269) 979 3348; e-mail: jerry@travelinginSpain.com; Web site: KalamazooRockClub.org

May8-10 Spring Plant Sale TBG. 12-8 Friday, 9-5 Saturday 12-4 Sunday Volunteers are needed

May 16-17—North Olmstead, OH: Show and sale; Parma Lapidary Club, Soccer Sportsplex; 31515 Lorain Rd.; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Admission \$6.00, Children under 12, and Scouts in uniform Free!; contact Martha Lamparyk, 1012 Chippewa Street, Grafton, OH 44044, (440) 926-3680; e-mail: jmlampa@gmail.com

May 30 Garden After Dark TBG 7-11PM TOLEDO BOTANICAL GARDEN CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

As part of the celebration of our 50th year, we invite you to enjoy the Garden after Dark with a multimedia sensory exploration through the Garden. The primary target audience is young professionals, but people of all ages are welcome Installations by University of Toledo Art Department, Light installations by local artist Tim Ide (The Work Collective), Performances by Birds Eye Circus (including fire breather!), The Lithophane Museum will be open for tours. Tickets will be on sale through the website beginning May 1, 2015 Craft beers by Maumee Bay Brewing & botanically inspired cocktails by the Village on Adams

May 29-31—Wauseon OH: Annual show; State Line Gem & Mineral Society, Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building; 8514 SR 108; Fri. 12:00 pm-7:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-7:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-4:00 pm; Adults \$3.00, Seniors \$2.00, Children under 12 free; contact Doris Brzezicki, 419 N Broad St, Adrian, MI 49221, (517) 263-1669; e-mail: rychar@tc3net.com; Web site: statelinegms.com

June 6-7 Mansfield, Oh Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society, Richland County fairgrounds 10-6 Sat, 11-5 Sun, admission \$5.00. Seniors \$4.00, Children \$3.00. scouts, children under 6 free. speakers, geode breaking, demos FMI 419-562-1152

Please note: The Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society, known as MGAGS, regrets to announce that there will be no Rockhound weekend in 2015 and, further, the organization is in the process of dissolving. We know many people enjoyed attending this somewhat unique event over the years and we enjoyed organizing it. We look forward to meeting our friends at other events across the Federation. MGAGS Board of officers

Bench Tips by Brad Smith Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

MAGNETIC TOOL BAR

An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each. See <http://www.harborfreight.com> and search on-"magnetic-holder".

My only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.



CASTING AN ORGANIC

For something a little different, try casting an organic. I've had good success with twigs, pieces of bark, and small pine cones. The process is straightforward. On the first heat, I melt out any sprue wax and then go to max temperature (1250 F for my investment) to burn out all the organics. Then after an overnight cool-down, I shake or vacuum out the ash and do a regular re-heat to casting temperature.

There are two problems to consider - getting the ash out and dealing with thin sections or stems. When spruing an organic, it's important to make it easy for the ash from the model to fall out through the sprue.

If any ash is left in the mold, the metal will not fill all the detail.

Sometimes I find it necessary to hold the flask over my head and snake a fine wire up the sprue to break up a piece of ash and let fall out.

Thin sections of some organics can be a problem, so things like a broad leaf or a flower petal are risky. Even if they do cast well, (and I have done an orchid) there is little extra metal to allow for clean-up and polishing. It's best to look for elements that are a little thicker before trying leaves and flowers.



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One final note - don't forget that wax items can be added to the organic to complete a model. For instance, a stone setting or bail can be fashioned from wax wire, a void in the organic can be patched with wax, or a few small pits can be filled with vaseline.

Thelma Postlewaite's Family News	
MAY Birthdays:	
1	Brooklyn Grams
4	Deneen Evans Ruby Reynolds
5	Benjamin Drake Audrey Senghas
6	Brandon Boyle
8	John Hull
9	George Burns
16	Pam Marok
19	Gwen Feight Wedad Ghanime
24	Nona Weideman
25	Carolyn Humberston Susan Szempias
28	C Brett Mentzer
Don't forget to check your Driver's License.	



Climbing poison ivy Photos courtesy www.poison-ivy.org.

Juniors Corner

Field Trips, Rockhounds and Poison Ivy
by Lyn Kalinoski

It's that time of year when all of us suffering from the long winter want to get out and collect on field trips, sort out specimens, work in the yard or go for a walk. While most rockhounds pay attention to the usual hazards of poor footing, snakes and insects on field trips, too many people ignore poison ivy until they come into contact with it and develop the painful rash. From long personal and painful experience with this plant, I can tell you that even with good intentions and preparation, it can be hard to avoid contact.

Poison ivy is found throughout the United States, southern Canada and northern Mexico except for some high altitudes and desert areas. Related plants with similar properties are poison oak and poison sumac. So unless you are in a dry desert with no vegetation, no trees and no underbrush, you are not safe from poison ivy. Poison ivy is often found at road cuts, the edge of fields and along old fences. The plant can creep along the ground, twine around a tree or fence as a thick hairy vine, or grow 3-4 feet in height as an upright shrub. It can grow in amidst other plants and appear innocuous.

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In spring, poison ivy is often red in color as it comes up and may have small yellow green flowers. In the fall the shrub type can be a blazing scarlet or gold with small off-white berries. It is very photogenic but still very toxic at this stage. The leaves may be shiny or dull and the leaves may or may not be notched. It's a very adaptable plant and with a warming climate, the oil in the poison ivy leaves is becoming more potent and more dangerous. The plant responds to increased CO2 levels by increasing leaf and stem production and increasing the concentration of urushiol, the oil in poison ivy which causes the reaction. It can survive even in areas where it shouldn't such as dunes and beaches and even peat bogs.

How do you get poison ivy? I swear I can be in the same area and just breathe deeply and get a rash but for most people any contact with the oil from the plant will cause the rash. Yanking the plant out by the roots in winter will often cause a serious rash; smelling smoke from burning wood that has poison ivy vine will cause susceptible people to get extremely ill. I know from bitter personal experience that you can wear gloves, long sleeves and still get poison ivy. You can even get poison ivy via your cat or dog as your pet's fur will hold the oil if they brush against the plant. The oil is very stable and will stay on work gloves for a long period of time, so make sure to wash tools and gloves or throw the gloves away. If you have come into contact with poison ivy while out in the field, alcohol will help remove the oil from your hands and tools as well as relieve the initial itching, so having some isopropyl alcohol in your first aid kit is a good idea.

For most people the first symptom of exposure is an itch which rapidly intensifies as a rash develops. So if you are in an area where there is poison ivy, even if you don't see it, rinse any part that may have come into contact with the plant with lots of cold to warm soapy water. If you are out in the field with limited water, use alcohol. You need to break down the oil and get it off your skin within an hour or so of exposure. If you think you have been exposed, wash as soon as possible with Technu, a scrub which does remove poison ivy oils from the skin. It is not cheap but it should be part of your field trip kit if you have any sensitivity to poison ivy. People vary in their sensitivity to poison ivy so get the oil off as soon as possible. Hot water may very well help the rash spread.

There are a lots of home remedies to treat poison ivy, but many don't work very well. Your doctor can prescribe steroids or give you a shot but repeated exposure can make the steroids less effective. Steroids don't, in my experience, do much to relieve the itching. Technu a makes a spray that relieves the rash and jewelweed (available at some health food stores as a liquid) can be applied cold to painful areas several times a day to relieve itching. Spraying the area with a deodorant that contains aluminum may also work on a short term basis. Domeboro (aluminum acetate) is a powder that you mix with water and can use as a wet dressing on affected areas. It comes as a packet and is available over the counter at some pharmacies. It can also be found under the name Burow's Solution.

Repeated exposure to poison ivy usually means the reaction becomes more severe each time. Blisters can form that are filled with fluid. For those who are sensitive, there are products called ivy blocks or ivy barriers made by several companies. These are applied to the skin at least 15 minutes before any possible exposure. Reapply every 4 hours at a minimum and more frequently if it is a very humid day. Ivy blocks are over the counter medications and readily available. Apply to skin even if wearing long sleeves and pants because oil on clothing will transfer to skin. Allergen shots for those who have had serious problems with poison ivy work for some individuals, not for others

The best advice about poison ivy I can give is to avoid it as you would dangerous animals or diseases. It can be painful and the lesions can last for months and even wind up as scars. The old mnemonics for a voiding poison ivy are still useful: "leaves of three, let it be", "hairy rope, don't be a dope"

Dull and shiny leaves that are not deeply notched.



Spring poison ivy emerging. Note the color

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May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
					1	2 Open House 10 am-7pm
3 Open House 10 am-5pm Metalcrafters 1:30	4	5 Extreme Beaders 9am	6 Gemcrafters 6:30-9pm	7 Gemcrafters 12pm	8	9 spoon jewelry class
10	11	12 Extreme Beaders 9am Faceteers 7pm	13 Gemcrafters 6:30-9pm	14 Gemcrafters 12pm Metalcrafters 6:30 pm	15	16
17 Metalcrafters 1:30	18 Gemcrafters cabochon class 1-6pm Beaders 6:00	19 Extreme Beaders 9am	20 Potluck 6pm Meeting 7 pm	21 Gemcrafters 12pm	22	23
24 Juniors 1:00pm	25	26 Extreme Beaders 9am Faceteers 7pm	27 Gemcrafters 6:30-9:30	28 Gemcrafters 12pm	29	30

Group meetings and classes at the clubhouse are for members only. Our club meetings are at the TBG Crosby Conference center, 5403 Elmer Dr. Toledo and are open to the public on the third Wednesday of every month. To learn more about our club, visit us during our Open House held every May and November.




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