



Rocky Reader

<http://www.rockyreader.com>

The Monthly Newsletter of the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club



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November 2015

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President's Message

The October meeting was well attended and there was a lot of fun news to share. For those who missed it, John and Pete gave the show report and were happy to announce that this year's show was the most financially successful that we have ever had. The show is our biggest fundraiser and frankly, it allows us to do most of what we do. Mike Mayers highlighted that when he spoke briefly about our scholarship funds with the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.

Speaking of Mike, I had the great pleasure of announcing that the board had voted to award Mike with Lifetime Membership for his exceptional service to the club. Mike, who has served us as Secretary and has helped manage our scholarship funds for years, was nominated by Ed Reynolds and John Capuano. After a short discussion, we selected Mike over several other very deserving members. The discussion reminded me of how blessed this club really is with so many members who continue to contribute over long periods of time and through many life changes.

One such member is Lyn Kalinoski. Lyn is retiring as our newsletter editor this month after holding that position for the past several years. As editor, Lyn has also faithfully served as a board member and her insights and input will be missed at those meetings. Thankfully, Debby Hoffmaster has volunteered to take the position, stating that she always enjoyed being editor when she had done it years ago.

November is election month, and unfortunately due to my work schedule, I will once again not be with you. Debby will run the meeting in my place and the election. We still have 2 essential positions to fill as both President and Vice President positions are going to be vacant. According to the by-laws, nominations are allowed (and I would add encouraged) to be made from the floor by any member in attendance. Nominees who agree are to be added to the ballot and only then will the election be carried out. Please give thought to who you might nominate, get their permission, and come out to the meeting to support your club! If you are on the receiving end of a nomination, please accept. This organization has a lot to give to the community and your contributions of time and energy are what make that happen.

Tonia Wallace, President

Announcements:

November 2015

The final Board Meeting for 2015 will be held on Sunday November 29 at 2:00PM. There are a couple of items for discussion, including our Lease with TBG and our Resident Organizations Agreement. As a reminder, board meetings are open to all members who wish to attend and who have business that they wish to bring before the board, but only Board Members can make motions and then vote on motions made at these meetings.

November Meeting

The November program will be the Club auction. Please bring things to donate and money to buy. This auction benefits the club's general fund.

From the Editor:

as many of you know I will be stepping down as Editor of the Rocky Reader. It has been my privilege to help the club by doing this for the past several years. Thank you all for the kind words and support.

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Meeting Minutes

Date: October 21, 2015

General Meeting Agenda

Meeting started at 7:00 pm with Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting started with the Show Report presented by John Capuano. The show results were one of the best on record with thanks to all the members who volunteered this year. Recognition certificates were presented to many key volunteers also.

Secretary Report – moved for approval by Tom Marok seconded by Harold Burlison

Treasurer Report – Finance Report moved for approval by Tom Marok and seconded by Deb Hoffmaster

Old Business

Thank you to Natalie Hill and Sandy Collins for stepping up to help with different facets of the open house. Tables are still available at \$20 each. Tonia will be emailing a layout of the room to all vendors by October 31.

Each of the groups are encouraged to sell, display or demonstrate during the open house

There was Board meeting October 4th. There needs to be expansion on the definition of “family”. Tonia will present suggested language to the Board at the next meeting for review and vote. If passed it will be presented to the members at the following business meeting.

A life membership was presented to Mike Mayers at the meeting much to his surprise

New Business

Debby and Pete attended the Resident Organizations meeting last week

Meeting scheduled Oct. 28 at 6pm to discuss further and Debby will attend

TBG would like the Craft Center open on weekends with potential “mini open houses” on select weekends.

Also limited member selling and also have a craft or class.

Activities may be charged but will need to let TPG know costs so they may advertise.

Contract and Lease future discussions

November 2015

Several essential positions are left open including President and Vice President. Also a new Rocky Reader Editor is required. Please consider nominating from the floor at the beginning of the November meeting so names can be gathered and added to the ballot.

John Capuno and Jim Leslie moved to allow a Board limit for a position to be bypassed if the holder of the position agrees to run again for the same position. Members approved the motion.

A Board meeting will be scheduled for early November

Group Reports

Gardens: Please call Nikki at 419-536-5592 to volunteer – the next event is Heralding the Holidays

Gemcrafters: A cabochon of the month is planned and members can purchase for a minimum fee. See the Rocky Reader for details.

Faceteers: Contact Elie if you have interest in a class

Metalcrafters: Contact Deb Hoffmaster for a basic pendant class

Beaders: November is the last class and then probable break for the winter

Extreme Beaders: See Rocky Reader for dates

Juniors: regular meeting scheduled

Sunshine: No news to report

Membership: 38 members and 3 juniors, 1 visitor and 4 new members

Some Membership dues are unpaid \$16.10 single, \$21.45 family

Field Trips: none planned

RockyReader: (Lyn) - Email info to Lyn by Monday following the meeting. November is the Club Auction

The meeting concluded at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted

Mike Mayers, Secretary

GROUPS

BEADERS

Monthly beaders will break for the after November.

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

Please contact Elie if you have questions. about the group.

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GEMCRAFTERS

THE GEM CRAFTER MODERATORS ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE:

1. THE CABOCHON OF THE MONTH SERIES. Beginning in November we will offer Gem Crafter trained members the opportunity to create cabochons using high quality materials at a very low price. The featured material will change each month, vary in hardness and finishing technique. Limit of one cutting slab per month per member so there is enough for everyone. Slabs will be \$2 to \$3 and you will be expected to work at the craft center on your cab the day you buy the material. A great Willow Creek Jasper will be featured for November. Future monthly materials include Grave Yard Plume Agate, awesome Mushroom Rhyolite, fine Porcelain Jasper, Chrysocolla, beautiful Ruby in Fuchsite, Green Banded Jasper, different colors of natural Jade and more!

2. MONTHLY TRAINING CLASSES. Cabochon Wire Wrapping, Decorative Viking Style Cabochon Wrapping, Free Form Cabochon Creation, Doublet Creation, Triplet Creation, Dremel Tool Cabochon Creation and Embellishment, Intarsia, Inlay work, Art Object Creations such as spheres, pyramids, obelisks and book ends are planned. Joe Motter has graciously agreed to teach Decorative Viking Style Cabochon Wrapping in November and Elie Ghanime has graciously agreed to teach basic Cabochon Wire Wrapping in December. Watch for emails with class details. The cost per each wire wrapping class is \$2 to be paid at the beginning of the class plus the usual \$2 group/club fee.

3. BASIC FINDINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR GEM CRAFTERS. Also beginning in November we will stock some basic findings so members can complete a project as they finish their current cabochon. The findings will be offered for a nominal cost which will be used to replenish the stock in perpetuity. We will stock silver plated, gold plated, pewter alloys and base metals. (No sterling silver due to price). This service is intended for members who are creating personal items only. Many thanks to our generous donors who made this service possible!

4. FALL OPEN HOUSE. Gem Crafters will have a table. Stop by and visit please.

5. CLUB LIBRARY BOOKS. Friendly reminder - If you have not returned borrowed books please do so soon. Thank You!!

6. INTRODUCTION TO CABOCHON CREATION TRAINING. If you are interested in our basic class - a must if you wish to participate in the above activities - please contact Natalie Hill for the next available class date.

7. OPEN CUTTING DAYS & TIMES: Every Wednesday 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm & Thursday Noon - 4:00 pm. (Craft center closed the 3rd Wednesday each month for the club meeting)

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

November 8: 10AM - 2PM. Basic Pendant. Instructor Deb Hoffmaster. \$10.00 payable to The Toledo Gem and Rockhound club. This is the beginning class for the Metalcrafter group. You will learn the basic skills needed to construct a bezel-set pendant. All materials are provided. To enroll, please contact Deb Hoffmaster - debhoffmaster@gmail.com .

METALCRAFTER MEETINGS

The metalcrafters will meet by appointment on November 12 and 15. Sunday meetings are from 1:30-3:30. To confirm your attendance at a Sunday meeting, e-mail or call Deb Hoffmaster 24 hours in advance. Thursday meetings are from 6:30-8:30. Thursday meetings do not have skill instruction and participants must have their own materials and be able to work independently. To confirm your attendance at a Thursday meeting e-mail or call Kathy Petersen or Shirley Stieb 24 hours in advance. Please note: if you have not

November 2015

confirmed your attendance, you may show up and have no one there. Participants must pay the \$2.00 session fee, and wear long pants and sturdy shoes (no sandals).

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 arrange orientation during a scheduled meeting .

Ring emphasis for the 2015-2016 metalcraft year. We will focus on five different ring designs. The first ring will be a simple addition of a ring shank to the "basic pendant" design. Additional designs will add difficulty, but reinforce skills learned with the earlier designs. Please note: instruction will only be offered at the Sunday meetings, however, if you feel confident of your skills you may also work independently during the Thursday meetings. People who have not completed the basic pendant will be able to substitute the first ring design and will have to work at one of the Sunday meetings. People who do not wish to participate may still work independently during the regular meetings. Participation in this activity is open to anyone who has completed the basic pendant class OR anyone who completes the first ring design. There is no fee for this activity, but participants must supply their own stones and metals. A complete list of the year's projects is available by contacting Deb Hoffmaster.

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

JUNIORS

The October Junior meeting we talked about Crinoids and built a model based on pony beads, pipe cleaners, Styrofoam ball half, clay and a small slab for a base. Need more info? I can provide a sheet at the November meeting! Remember, Juniors is the 4th Sunday of every month at 1pm.

Juniors will meet next on November 22nd. I'm gonna try and focus on some opportunities to create rock/jewelry related Christmas gifts for family members. Christmas is around the corner, this is a great time to start making those great gifts! Topaz is the mineral for November, so come with questions and ideas about Topaz also!

December Juniors will NOT meet since it is too close to Christmas.

January Juniors will January 24th. Bring your new rocks/fossils/minerals for show and tell! Also we will try and warm things up a bit by talking about volcanoes and possibly making our own volcano models. Sounds like a BLAST! The January mineral will be Garnet.

See you at the next Juniors meeting!

Reminder: if you have not yet paid your membership dues , please do so asap. Dues are \$16.10 single, \$21.45 family.

Please Make Checks out to:
Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club
Mail to:
Pete Peterson
3558 Brookside
Toledo, OH 43606

Please include the form from the September Rocky Reader so Pete knows who has paid.

Thelma Postlewaite's Family News November Birthdays:	
3 7 8 11 13 14 22 24 28 29	Deb Oberhouse Heather Zeller David Moore Betty Love Dawn Sandt Ric Wolkins Karen Snodgrass John Maiani Bonnie Wheeler Kathy Peterson
Don't forget to check your Driver's License.	



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MWF Poster Contest

Reminder: Midwest Federation Youth Poster Contest sponsored by Summit Lapidary Club of Ohio
 Topic: Amazing Agates Eligibility: Grades 1-8, Each grade will have a winner

Contest Rules

All entries must be on 12 x 18 paper and must include name, address, age and school grade of participant on back of the entry

No 3-D posters accepted

The title may be on the front or back

List the name of the agate, brief description of what it looks like and why you chose it

Artwork on posters can be pen, ink, crayon, magic marker, paint or any other artists' medium

All entries become the property of Summit Lapidary Club and the Midwest Federation

Scale of points:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| originality and art work | 30 points |
| design | 25 points |
| title | 25 points |
| listing of agate type, description and where it is from | 20 points |

All entries should be mailed to:
 Poster Contest
 617 Wooster Rd W
 Barberton Ohio 44203

Deadline April 15, 2016

November 2015

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GUMINA

313-766-8944

ICE AGE GHOSTS AND THEIR GROCERIES

By Heath Shive

Herbivores and plants have a tentative *quid pro quo*. Herbivores get food. Ideally, plants get seed dispersal. However, many herbivores - like rodents - eat seeds rather than disperse them! No seeds, no future. That's why some plants adapt defenses like toxic seeds. What we consider "spices" (e.g., black pepper) are really just seeds defending themselves. Therefore, *symbiotic* plant-animal relationships are very specific.

Years ago, in Costa Rica, ecologist Dan Janzen noticed that many of the larger tropical fruits were going uneaten, just rotting away. Together Janzen and Paul S. Martin wrote a paper entitled "Neotropical Anachronisms" where they hypothesized that many fruit trees might still be making food for Ice Age megafauna (giant sloths, mastodons, mammoths, glyptodonts, etc.). These great beasts were symbiotes. Now they're extinct. But the trees still remember and make Ice Age groceries to this day.

Connie Barlow's book *The Ghosts of Evolution* explores this idea in depth. Her anachronistic examples include honey locusts, Osage orange, calabash, paw paws, persimmon trees and others. All of these plants produce large fruit harvests that go largely nowhere. They've had to develop alternate means to survive without Ice Age megafauna, and their numbers were dwindling as a result.

For example, the Osage orange produces a softball-sized fruit that looks like a green brain. It's made of a latex-like material, and it tastes worse than it looks. No animal is known to eat this fruit. By the time Columbus arrived the population was restricted to a small tri-state range around Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Humans now propagate some of these "anachronisms". Osage orange trees make excellent natural fences for farms. Honey locust trees thrive in cities and arid climates to provide shade.

Noted ecologist Henry Howe critiqued the idea of anachronisms in his 1988 book *Ecological Relationships of Plants and Animals*. Though Howe thought the idea intriguing, he criticized the hypothesis on two points. First, if the megafauna were the seed dispersers, then how could the plants survive "for 500 years, much less ten millennia" after the Ice Age megafaunal extinction? Second, how could one even begin to prove this hypothesis?

But it should be remembered that even if megafauna were the *primary* dispersers, it doesn't mean they were the *only* dispersers. For example, without the honeybee, flowering plants wouldn't go extinct, but many flowering plants certainly would dwindle. Besides, some plants find alternate means to survive. As elaborated in *Ghosts of Evolution*, some plants will send out root suckers to form nearby clone trees. Some of the oldest plants in the world have survived this way.

This hypothesis is by no means perfect, but it seems better than any other alternative explanation for all the "nonsensical fruit." Kind of a lonely story, really. Smacks of unrequited love. But my advice for these trees, or any lonely heart, is this: They're plenty of other symbiotes in this big crazy world! Good luck!

References:

Barlow, Connie. *The Ghosts of Evolution: Nonsensical Fruit, Missing Partners, and Other Ecological Anachronisms*. New York: Basic Books, 2000.



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Howe, Henry F., and Lynn C. Westley, 1988, *Ecological Relationships of Plants and Animals* (New York: Oxford University Press)

Janzen, Daniel H., and Paul S. Martin, 1982, "Neotropical Anachronisms: The Fruits the Gomphotheres Ate," *Science* 215: 19-27.

Events From Chetty King's Table:

Nov 1 Sunday Short Hort TBG 9:30am-12 pm

Nov 7 Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society Annual auction Democratic club of Taylor (MI) tables open at 7 pm FMI: GUMINA 313-766-8944

Nov 7-8 TGRH Club Open House

Nov 6-8 Cuyhoga Falls, Oh Micromineral Symposium Cleveland Museum of Natural History FMI: 330-929-2395 or jgreen2@neo.rr.com

Nov 18 Weed and Wine TBG 6pm-8pm

Dec 4-6 Heralding the Holidays TBG FMI

<http://www.toledogarden.org/events-2/>

Brad Smith's Bench Tips

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon

Prevent Fire Stain with Prips

Have you ever had fire stain on your silver pieces? Prips is my choice to prevent it.

It is named for Jack Prip, who taught at the Univ of Rochester, NY. The mixture he came up with was 12 parts boric acid, 8 parts borax and 8 parts tri-sodium phosphate, ground thoroughly and dissolved in warm water. In use, parts were brushed or dipped and dried with a torch. Then they were positioned for soldering, and solder & flux were added.

I prefer to use the Prips mixture a little differently. I leave out the tri-sodium phosphate and mix it in alcohol not water. So the mixture is just 12 parts boric acid and 8 parts borax, ground up finely. To use, add a few tablespoons of the dry mixture to a half cup of denatured alcohol and store it in a wide-mouth, well sealed bottle. To protect your piece from firestain, brush or dip all parts, burn off the alcohol with a torch, and arrange them for soldering. Then add solder & flux and solder as usual.

FYI - Borax can be found in jewelry supply companies or as 40 Mule Team washing soap in some markets. Boric acid can be found in the 99 Cent Store as roach killer. If tri-sodium phosphate cannot be found in a hardware or paint store as a cleaning product, use an equal amount of crushed up Cascade granules.

Why it Works:

Whenever you heat an alloy that has a lot of copper in it (copper, brass, bronze, nickel silver, 14K gold), a black copper oxide forms on the surface and will inhibit the solder from flowing. Some kind of flux or firecoat can be used to avoid the oxide. Liquid flux will work, paste flux will work, and there's a number of commercial firecoats that will work, but I think the Prips mixture is the best.

Goldsmiths like a traditional mixture of boric acid and alcohol. I think the borax in the Prips mixture gives better protection at the higher temperatures.

Minerals in the U.S.A.

In this word search are the names of minerals found in the United States of America. The names can run left to right, right to left, top to bottom, bottom to top or diagonally. When you are done, use the internet and find information and pictures of each mineral.

R	A	R	S	T	A	U	R	O	L	I	T	E	F	T
Q	H	P	E	T	I	R	A	B	A	M	W	T	R	O
U	R	O	C	V	T	O	P	A	Z	U	A	G	A	U
A	F	R	D	G	L	K	T	A	B	S	V	B	N	R
R	F	L	U	O	R	I	T	E	U	C	E	Z	K	M
T	N	A	I	L	C	X	S	L	P	O	L	E	L	A
Z	E	J	E	D	S	H	F	Y	G	V	L	T	I	L
O	P	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y	Y	I	I	I	N	I
S	T	B	V	I	R	I	U	O	P	T	T	O	I	N
K	U	N	Z	I	T	E	T	S	S	E	E	T	T	E
B	N	I	E	E	S	H	I	Z	U	I	K	I	E	T
D	I	A	M	O	N	D	L	B	M	E	T	N	N	R
E	T	I	L	A	H	P	E	C	O	P	P	E	R	O
D	E	T	I	C	L	A	C	V	D	W	R	B	A	N
D	A	T	O	L	I	T	E	A	N	E	L	A	G	A

Mineral names in this word search:

Copper; Fluorite; Galena; Staurolite; Rhodochrosite; Tourmaline; Garnet; Gold; Silver; Pyrite; Halite; Benitoite; Neptunite; Wavellite; Quartz; Barite; Diamond; Mercury; Sulfur; Gypsum; Topaz; Kunzite; Rutile; Trona; Muscovite; Datolite; Calcite; Franklinite.



Treasure Trove of Late Triassic Fossils Discovered in Utah

(ABC News Oct.,10, 2015)

Paleontologists have discovered a cliff-side in [Utah](#) brimming with fossils that offers a rare glimpse of desert life in western North America early in the age of dinosaurs.

Among the discoveries in what used to be a lake shoreline between giant sand dunes is a new pterosaur that would have been the largest flying reptile of the time. It wielded its ferocious teeth and powerful skull to gobble up small crocodile type creatures as it soared over a desert some 210 million years ago.

"If you saw one of these things coming at you with its jaws open, it would freak you out of your mind," said Brooks Britt, a Brigham Young University paleontologist who presented preliminary findings this week at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology conference in Dallas.

He and fellow paleontologists plan to publish the findings in scientific journal next year. Eight different animals, most likely new, have been identified at a site discovered in 2009 near Dinosaur National Monument on the Utah-Colorado border. The discoveries include:

— A type of a strange-looking reptile with a head like a bird, arms like a mole and a claw on the tip of the tail called a drepanosaur.

— Several small crocodile-like creatures with armor on their backs called sphenosuchians.

— Two different types of meat-eating dinosaurs, one related to the coelophysis, a scrawny dinosaur featured in the recent movie, "Walking with Dinosaurs."

"It's a fantastic site," said Brian Andres, a University of South Florida paleontologist who heard the presentation this week. "It's in a time and a place that we really do not have a good record of."

The pterosaur discovery is significant because it fills a gap in the fossil record between earlier, smaller pterosaurs and the giant ones that came later, Andres said.

It is related to another wicked-jawed pterosaur discovered in England: the Dimorphodon.

Each side of its lower jaw had two fangs and 28 teeth. "This thing is built like an aerial predator," Andres said.

The skull and wing bone found are also noteworthy because they are intact, and not crushed, a rarity for pterosaurs. It is the first known Triassic pterosaur found in North America, other than one unearthed in [Greenland](#), Britt said.

"It is absurdly rare to find delicate, small skeletons from anywhere in time, anywhere in the world," said Adam Pritchard, a Yale paleontologist not part of the discovery team. "To have them from the Triassic period, which is the very beginning of the age of reptiles, is really unprecedented, especially in western north America."

The site was discovered paleontologists Dan Chure of Dinosaur National Monument and George Englemann of the University of [Nebraska](#). Chure said the duo realized right away they had stumbled upon the discovery of their lives.

So far, they've found 11,500 bones — and they may be only halfway through getting them all out, he said. The new pterosaur, yet to be named, was found last year by a college student carefully extracting fossils from a 300-pound block of sandstone from the site.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
1	2	3 Extreme Beaders 9am	4 Gemcrafters 6:30-9:00pm	5 Gemcrafters 12pm	6	7 Open House
8 Open House Basic pendant class 10am-2 pm	9	10 Extreme Beaders 9am	11 Gemcrafters 6:30-9pm	12 Gemcrafters 12pm Metalcrafters by appt	13	14 Scrimshaw Class 9am-1pm
15 Metalcrafters by appt	16 Beaders 6:00	17 Extreme Beaders 9am	18 Meeting 7 pm Club Auction	19 Gemcrafters 12pm	20	21
22 Juniors 1pm	23	24 Extreme Beaders 9am	25 Gemcrafters 6:30-9pm	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
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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