

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club



February 2025

Letter from the President

Hello Fellow Rockhounds,

We want to see your project that you have done for Valentine's Day. Bring it to the February meeting for Show and Tell. If you are unable to attend the meeting, take pictures of it and send it to Trish our Vice President. Send an explanation of your project. Tell us what inspired you, how long it took to make it and also about its composition. What material's did you use or give a little description about the gemstone or rock in it. She will post it on Facebook. We received many positive comments last month about Dana's greenstone pendant. We thank her for sharing.

This is a fun thing we should do in 2025. Don't have enough time to complete a project for Valentine's Day? How about St. Patrick's Day in March. "Show" us what you can make for that holiday and "Tell" us at the March meeting.

There will be a show meeting on Wednesday, February 19th at 5:30pm. We need to start making plans for this very important event. The money we make at the show is a large portion of our income. It is what pays for our rent at our wonderful craft center and upkeep of our machines. We are the envy of other rockhound groups in the area because of our craft center. Everyone is welcome to attend. Your help and ideas with the planning of the show are what will make it a successful event. See you there.

Birthstones

Modern: **Onyx**

Traditional: **Amethyst**

Alternate: **Blood Stone**

Ancient Hebrew: **Amethyst**

If you would like a detailed breakdown, you can check out the following site:

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones>



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Workshops

Make your first pendant Class

Saturday March 15th from 11 am to 3 pm. Students will learn how to cut metal, make a bezel and back plate, solder, polish and set a stone. To register, contact instructor Michelle Grigore at mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com at least a week before the above date. Class is limited to 4 students. Members pay \$45, non-members \$55. All materials provided to complete a small sterling silver pendant with a polished gemstone cabochon.



Collection and ID Classes

Feb 10th- Specimen Identification Round #2

Due to scheduling errors and extremely cold weather we did not get the chance to identify specimens. So if you missed out on last months session have no fear! We will be re-attempting the session. Bring one specimen that is unidentified and as a group we will be making identification cards as well as attempting to identify everything we can! Come on down from 6PM- 8PM Feb 10th! Class will be \$4 for club fees.

March 10th- Plotting The Course

In this session we will be selecting locations and planning outings. First we will go through the process of plotting our course to the chosen location. In addition we will search along our route for other possible search locations and do research on said location to determine what you might need if you decide to take the trip yourself. Hours will be 6PM-8PM. Class will be \$4 for club fees.

Attention All Moderators

Before leaving the craft center after your session, make sure that the thermostat is set for the appropriate temperature, all indoor lights are turned off, all doors are locked, the restroom door is locked and the key is on the hook, and the exterior door including the deadbolt is locked. It has been brought to my attention that occasionally some of these things have not been done properly. For everyone's safety and security you must review your checklist before leaving the premises.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



ARTIST:
Mike Cameron

DESCRIPTION:
Cold Connection
Metal Crafting



Metal crafting when designing and making jewelry merges many techniques, expanding the creative possibilities. TGRC member Mike Cameron has been exploring “cold connections.” Mike explains, “In metal crafting, hot connections involve heating the metal and melting the solder to make a connection between two pieces of metal. Cold connections, made without heat, can be made using rivets or jump rings. Wire wrapping is another form of cold connections.”

As shown in Mike’s works, the rivets are functional yet embellish the design. In his first cuff, he combined silver wire with copper. The copper was textured by using a chisel, being careful to not cut the copper by mistake. The ends of the silver wire were hammered, pierced and riveted in place.

We all search for inspiration. “My first design using rivets was a bracelet design I found on the internet,” Mike shared. “The article also had suggestions on how to rivet. Both practice and suggestions from club members helped me learn. My rivets are made from short pieces of copper wire using a ball peen hammer to ‘mushroom’ the ends. Other tools can also be used.”

Then he stepped up his game. “My bracelet design with the turquoise stone came from a book,” which Mike highly recommends (Copper Jewelry Collection by K. Voorhees). This design was more elaborate and features a stunning 30mm triangle turquoise Mike cut and polished. He soldered the mounting bezel but the rest of the work is assembled using cold connections. Mike cheerfully acknowledges that learning any skill involves trial and error. “We all have our own approach to crafting. I prefer to make my mistakes in copper. When learning a new technique, I will often practice with scrap pieces. This has helped when doing riveting, texturing and stamping - all skills that take practice to learn.”

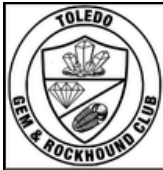
As a metal crafting moderator for TGRC, Mike is in a perfect position to share his knowledge with Club members wanting to learn more about cold connections.

See RockyReader.com for more information.

Written by Jim Nowak

We are getting ready to have an open house for the club. Here are a few things to keep in mind and things to do! So, since we only have a total of 12 tables, and not alot of room. We will only have club members vending. Tables will will \$10 per table, max of 2 tables a member. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Editor.rockyreader@gmail.com. Advertisement will be our best way to make sure we get a great turnout and hopefully gain some new members!

Thank you to everyone at the club willing to help with this!



Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

OPEN HOUSE!

We are excited to invite you to our Gem Club's Open House! Where we aim to showcase our club and the activities that we do! We would love to have you join us! Fun and fellowship!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Vendors

There will be some great things available for purchase coming from vendors inside the club.

Meet and Greet

Meet some of our awesome club members and moderators. Ask questions!

Workshop Demonstration's

Our workshop moderators will be demonstrating each of our groups that we have to offer!

Raffle

Try for exciting items and participate in our raffle for a chance to win fantastic prizes.



 **Contact Us**
Editor.RockyReader@gmail.com

 **More Information**
www.rockyreader.com

12 PM - 4 PM

04

MAY

CLUB HOUSE

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February 2025

- Faceting
- Rocky Reader
- Gem Crafters
- Extream Beaders
- Metal Crafters
- Collection/I.D

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
2 12:30 PM Gem Crafters 12:30-3:30 Erika	3	4 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	5	6 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	7	8 12:00 PM Gem Crafters 12-3 Erika 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
9 Faceting class Anthony	10 6:00 PM Collection/I.D 6-8 Max	11 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	12	13 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Steve	14	15 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
16 12:30 PM Gem Crafters 12:30-3:30 Erika	17	18 Extream Beaders Fieldtrip 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	19 5:30 PM Club show Meeting 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	20 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	21	22 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
23 Faceting class Anthony	24	25 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	26	27 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Steve	28	

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