

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

August 2025



Letter from the President

Hello My Rockhound Friends

This is it! Your turn! Our 54th show will be next month. What are you doing to make the show this year the best one ever? We are in need of volunteers. Please go to our website and sign the volunteer list. This is a wonderful club. We have been in existence for a long time. Do your part to help the club continue its important legacy of educating and promoting all things rock and gem.

I have been stretching my spirit thanks to our rockhound club. I have made jewelry with the guidance of our capable and patient moderators. I had the desire but not the confidence to take on the various projects. I have enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow members on rockhound adventures I couldn't have done alone. I know more rockhound journeys await me, both at our craft center and in the great outdoors. I can't wait! How about you? How has TGRC stretched your spirit? Share your story at one of our meetings.

Summer is vacation time. Have fun whatever you do, be safe and I'll see you in September at the show.

Diane Bieber
President

Birthstones

Modern: **Peridot**

Traditional: **Sardonyx**

Alternate: **Spinel**

Ancient Hebrew: **Peridot**

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 **Sept. 13** 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.

Juniors -

Hello, Rocky readers!

Our junior's program is back in action. We had a fun first meeting creating individual specimen boxes.

Our next meeting is **July 12th** 2-3pm. We will be collaborating with our mineral member Max, and learning about different fossils as well, as, creating a few of our own. Join us for Fabulous Fossils this month.

A sneak peak at our **August 9th** meeting. We are going to continue in the Great Lakes region. Finding out what rocks and minerals are around us and working on hand polishing a petoskey stone.
Can't wait to see you!



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.

Mineral Collectors Class-

August 11th- Open identification and summary of trip to Alpena Michigan to visit rock port quarry.

I will be going on a trip over the weekend of the 8th, 9th, and 10th. During this trip I will be visiting the rock port quarry and putting together a site report that I will present on the 11th to anyone interested in attending as well as handing out a few specimens. If anyone would like to join me I have my email listed and am willing to share my number to coordinate.

September- NO Collectors meeting in September as a result of Labor Day and the show being right before the normal meeting time.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!!!!

Member: Ray Kuras
Faceting



"Lakeview Oregon Fire Opal (before)"



"Lakeview Oregon Fire Opal (after)"



"Facet machines from the TGRC"

Some people think faceting is a mysterious art practiced by gemcrafter elites. Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) Faceter Ray Kuras disagrees. "If you buy your own equipment, it can be expensive," says Ray, "But is the process hard? Not really." Ray feels the faceting machines at the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club offer a great, affordable way to learn this type of gem crafting. Of course, as precision machines they should be used under the guidance of one of our faceting moderators.

Like so many rockhounds, Ray Kuras's interest started when he was young. "My neighbor, who is also my Uncle, had a septic business," Ray recalls. "He hauled a lot of rocks for his business and often had mounds of rocks near his house." Ray couldn't resist digging through the rocks, "and I came across calcite and found it fascinating." More rocks tumbled into his life. Another neighbor went to Arizona and brought back interesting gemstones. His family moved to Bowling Green where he met TGRC members Tony and Elaine Kaczmarek. Ray eventually joined TGRC, met Chet King and together they learned faceting.

How do you start faceting? "With quality rough," advises Ray. Less expensive stones or even synthetics can let you learn the craft and build confidence. Then you can start working with finer quality rough. Ray remembers an early connection that led to some beautiful peridot, which Ray faceted and still remembers well. Personally for Ray, the real joy is prospecting for your own stones to cut. That's why he tries to spend a week or two annually in the field.

Any personal favorites? "Tourmaline," says Ray. "Especially watermelon tourmaline." He likes to travel to Idaho for prospecting and visits North Carolina often enough to be a member of the Abbeville, NC Gem & Mineral Club.

When it's time to start cutting your rough, Ray says it's important to become familiar with your faceting machine. Much like a musical instrument, each machine has its own feel and those subtle differences affect the end result. Ray advises that last step, the polishing phase, is the toughest part. Done correctly though, few things are more satisfying than turning a chunk of rock into a sparkling gemstone.

Interested in faceting? Watch the Rocky Reader calendar for scheduled sessions under the guidance of Ray or fellow faceting moderator Anthony Gregory. Especially with the quality machines available at TGRC, Ray's simple advice is to come and learn how much fun it is to facet.

-Story and photos by Jim Nowak

Members of the club got together on July 13th to clean out the display cases for us to use at the September show. If you are interested in using a case for display, please email Michelle at mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com



"Crushed Turquoise being added to ring"
-Photo by Sarah Speer

"Finished rings made in 'make and inlay ring class'"
-Photo by Sarah Speer

One of our Metal crafter moderator's recently held a "Make an inlay ring" class and everyone had a blast! Michelle holds classes in which you can sign up and be shown how to make these wonderful pieces of wearable art! supplies and tools are included, just bring a smile!

Its just about time!!! Our big show is right around the corner and its going to be so much fun! We need everyone's help from the club if your able! Calling all rockhounds!!!! Sign up online or contact the email below! You can use your phones camera and take a photo of the QR code below and it will take you right to the sign up website! You all rock!!

Sign up is now open for Treasures Unearthed- the big rock, gem and jewelry show in September. You can find the link on the Facebook page or you can email me at trgcsowvolunteers@gmail.com Sign up before July 31st and You get a nifty T-Shirt

TREASURES UN-EARTHED

Gem, Jewelry & Rockhound Show

September 5-6-7

Wood County Fairgrounds
Bowling, Green, OH





**Club Members -
FREE T-shirt!
Deadline July 28th!**



Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club - 08/08/2025

Hours: Fri 1:00 - 8:00, Sat 10:00 - 6:00, Sun 10:00 - 3:00

Start Date: 08/08/2025

End Date: 08/10/2025

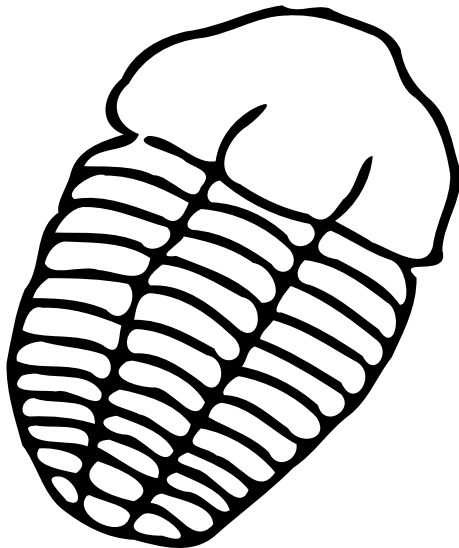
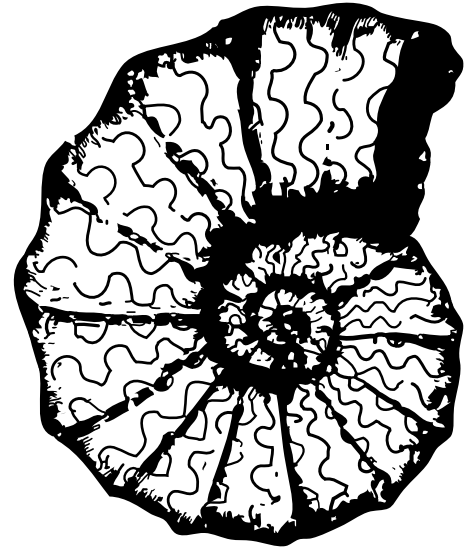
Venue: Houghton Elementary School

Address: 203 W.Jacker Ave

Haughton, MI, 49931

Website: <https://ccrmc.info/>

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows



Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club - 09/05/2025

Hours: Fri 10:00 - 6:00, Sat 10:00 - 6:00, Sun 11:00 - 5:00

Start Date: 09/05/2025

End Date: 09/07/2025

Venue: Pratt Pavilion, County Fairgrounds

Address: 13800 W. Poe Road

Bowling Green, OH, 43402

Website: <https://rockyreader.com/>

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society tailgate sale

09/06/2025

Hours: Sat 9:00 - 3:00

Start Date: 09/06/2025

End Date: 09/06/2025

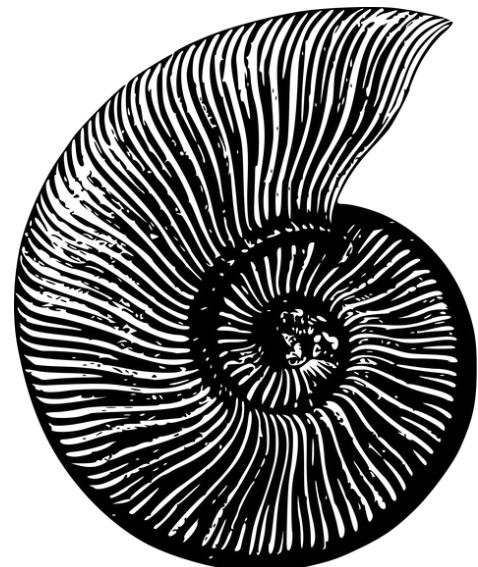
Venue: Parking lot, St. Michael Lutheran Church

Address: 7211 Oakland Drive

Portage, MI, 49024

Website: <https://www.kalamazoorockclub.org/>

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows



Board Members

TOLEDO GEM AND ROCKHOUND CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

President

Diane Bieber
Quartz1tgrc@gmail.com

Vice President

Tricia Jackson
trgcshowvolunteers@gmail.com

Treasurer

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Secretary

Deb Oswald
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Sherm Kardatzke
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michaelcameron@utoledo.edu

LEADING MEMBERS

Website Editor

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sstalker@bex.net

Newsletter Editor

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Show Chair

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Membership Chair

Michelle Grigore
mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com

Juniors

Stacy Flynn
stacyflynn2012@gmail.com

Sunshine Chair

Linda Mcconahey
567-277-8238

- Faceting

Rocky Reader

Gem Crafters

Extream Beaders
- Metal Crafters

Collection/I.D

Juniors

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
3	4	5 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 10-2	6	7 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	8	9 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Juniors 10-3 Stacy
10 Gem Crafters 12:00-3:00 Erika Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	11 6:00 PM Collection/I.d 6-8 Max	12 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 10-2 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	13	14	15	16 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
17 Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	18	19 10:00 Extream Beaders 10-2 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	20 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	21 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	22	23
24 Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	25	26 10:00 Extream Beaders 10-2 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	27	28	29	30
31						

 Faceting
 Rocky Reader
 Gem Crafters
 Extream Beaders
 Metal Crafters
 Collection/I.D
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SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2  10:00 AM Extream Beaders 10-2  12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	3	4	5  TGRC Gem Show 10-6	6  TGRC Gem Show 10-6
7  TGRC Gem Show 11-5	8	9  10:00 AM Extream Beaders 10-2  12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	10	11	12	13  Make Your First Pendant Class 11-3 Michelle Juniors 10-3 Stacy
14  Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	15	16  10:00 AM Extream Beaders 10-2  12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	17  7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	18  11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	19	20  12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
21  Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	22	23  10:00 AM Extream Beaders 10-2  12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	24	25	26	27
28  Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	29	30  10:00 AM Extream Beaders 10-2  12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle				