

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

January 2026



Letter from the President

Thank you to all my fellow Toledo Rockhounds!

I truly appreciate the warm welcome I have received from all of you since returning to Ohio as well as the support you've shown electing me as your President once again!

Wherever I've traveled and regardless of how many other clubs I've joined or visited, this had always been my home, the club where I got my start. I will always have fond memories of my years here, so much so that even though I moved away, I never really left you behind.

I want to commend and thank Diane Bieber for such loyal, patient and conscientious service as our President for the last four years. I hope I am able to fill the big shoes she left behind. Please be patient with me as I relearn the ropes here at TGRC.

My "door" is always open to you and I hope that you to feel comfortable reaching out to me if you see a need, have an idea, want to contribute. Text, call or email, I will respond to your messages!

Sincerely,

Jerri Heer
2026 President
419-344-9999
jheerx6@aol.com

Birthstones

Modern: **Garnet**

Traditional: **Garnet**

Alternate: **Rose Quartz**

Ancient Hebrew: **Garnet**

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

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



Happy
New Year!

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*Going forward, workshops will be held one on one. Please contact the instructor listed to sign up.

Your Make Your First Pendant- for beginning metal smiths: you will learn how to cut metal, make a bezel and back plate, solder, polish and set a stone in a 2-hr session with one of the Moderators. A fee of \$15 covers the copper, cabochon, soldering and polishing materials needed to complete your pendant. Contact Michelle at Mgrigore_tgrh@gmail.com to schedule your session.

*for metal smiths who have satisfactorily completed the pendant session or have previous experience and can demonstrate safe use of the tools and equipment.

Make Your First Cabochon- for beginning gem crafters: you will learn how to use the trim saw, templates, lapidary grinders and polishers to make cut and polish a cabochon. Stop by at the start of an open work session and check in with the Moderator to see if they have time to teach you—plan on at least 1 ½ hrs.

*for gem crafters who have satisfactorily completed the first cabochon session or have previous experience and can demonstrate safe use of the tools and equipment.

Wire Wrapping & Weaving Workshop- Join us for a hands-on wire wrapping and weaving workshop on Jan 11th from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. Designed for beginners and those curious about learning wire in a relaxed, supportive studio setting.

In this first session, we'll explore basic tools and wire types, practice foundational techniques, and begin a simple cabochon pendant by learning how wire responds to the stone—rather than forcing a design. This workshop is not about perfection or finishing quickly. It's about building confidence, understanding materials, and beginning a longer creative journey with wire and stone.

All materials will be provided.

No prior wire-wrapping experience is required. Check in on the Facebook group or calendar during January for the upcoming dates.



Special Guest Presentation: “The Devonian Period in Ohio” by Paleobiologist Jessica Hull

Picture a Paleobiologist. If you see a young woman who has been happily obsessed with studying science and rocks since age 11, you’re thinking of Jessica Hull. Rockhounds and fossil fans take note: Jessica will be giving a presentation to the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00PM.

Jessica lives in Dayton, Ohio and offers expertise in paleontology, paleoclimate, paleoecology, archaeobotany to her city. She also is dedicated to traveling and giving presentations on these subjects to help others learn about and share her passion for prehistory.

Living in Ohio has been a boon for her. “In Ohio, you can find Devonian fossils from just about any era,” offering candy-store-like opportunity for field trips. One special fossil is the Dunkleosteus, Ohio’s official fish fossil, which she’ll explore during her upcoming visit to TGRC.

Jessica says as a young girl, her interest was started by trips to the library where she immersed herself in books in the science section. Then, “My grandpa gave me a book on fossils,” and she found some fossils in her own backyard. That led her to the Paleozoic era. Her passion only grew.

In high school, Jessica says she had an assignment to give a book report. “I didn’t like to do book reports,” Jessica remembers. Her solution was to do a book report on her set of dinosaur encyclopedias, metaphorically killing two birds with one stone... or perhaps more correctly, one fossil.

Jessica believes fossils are really clues. By studying them, “I want to understand what these creatures were like when they were alive. How did they behave? How did they move? Why did they go extinct?

As many TGRC members will understand, field trips are very satisfying for Jessica with the combined attractions of curiosity and analysis. “I like being outside. I enjoy opening rocks and seeing what’s revealed.” Sounds like a perfect fossil-hunter formula for fun.

Another remarkable aspect of Jessica’s life adds to her quest. In 2023, her volleyball team won the gold medal in Ohio’s Special Olympics games. Playing in a highly competitive sport taught her how to be cooperative and support teammates. Watching out for each other and keeping each other safe is important, which also applies to the field collecting trips with friends and colleagues. Plus, competing in games helped her be comfortable in front of people, which has made her public appearances to promote paleontology more natural for her.

Come to TGRC’s January 21st monthly Club meeting to hear Jessica’s fascinating perspectives. It’s at 7:00PM at the Club workshio, 2453 Tremainsville road, Unit B, Toledo, Ohio. The presentation is free to TGRC members, guests and visitors. Jessica looks forward to meeting and swapping stories with TGRC members and guests - particularly fish stories, if they include ancient fish!

-Story By Jim Nowak (TGRC Vice President)



We did it! We have sworn in our official leaders of the club for 2026! Below are the details. Lets hope 2026 is as fun and amazing as 2025 was for the club and everyone that will be joining in the future!

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club's newly elected Officers for 2026 are sworn in during the TGRC December 17, 2025 meeting. Left to right are: Bill Oswald, re-elected Sergeant-At-Arms; Dana Jacob Szymanski, TGRC Board Member (3 year term); Deb Oswald, re-elected Secretary; Jerri Heer, President; Jim Nowak Vice President. TGRC Moderator Michelle Grigore led the ceremony. Steve Stalker, re-elected Treasurer, was unable to attend.

2026 Official Leaders



TOLEDO GEM AND ROCKHOUND CLUB BOARD MEMBERS**President**

Jerri Heer

jheerx6@aol.com

Vice President

Jim Nowak

jimages@buckeye-express.com

Treasurer

Steve Stalker

sstalker@bex.net

Secretary

Deb Oswald

catstgrc@gmail.com

Past President

Diane Bieber

Quartz1tgrc@gmail.com

Sergeant-At-Arms

Bill Oswald

catstgrc@gmail.com

Board Member

William Miniard

Editor.Rockyreader@gmail.com

Board Member

Sherm Kardatzke

Sakardaszke@gmail.com

Board Member

Mike Cameron

michaelcameron@utoledo.edu

LEADING MEMBERS**Website Editor**

Steve Stalker

sstalker@bex.net

Newsletter Editor

William Miniard

Editor.Rockyreader@gmail.com

Show Chair

Jerri Heer/Jim Nowak

jheerx6@aol.com

jimages@buckeye-express.com

Membership Chair

Michelle Grigore

mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com

Juniors

Stacy Flynn

stacyflynn2012@gmail.com

Sunshine Chair

Linda Mcconahay

567-277-8238

Calendar

JANUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  New Year No Classes	2	3   Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
						Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
4 	5   Gem Crafters 4:30- 8:30 Stacy Collection/1.d 6-8 Max Board Meeting 6PM	6   Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	7	8  Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	9	10   Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Juniors 3-4 Stacy Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
11 	12  Gem Crafters 4:30- 8:30 Stacy	13   Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	14	15  Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	16	17   Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
18 	19  Gem Crafters 1-4 Sherm	20   Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	21 	22  Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	23	24   Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
25	26  Gem Crafters 12-8 Stacy	27   Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	28	29  Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	30	31   Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike

Calendar

FEBRUARY 2026

- █ Faceting
- █ Rocky Reader
- █ Gem Crafters
- █ Extream Beaders

- █ Metal Crafters
- █ Collection/I.D
- █ Juniors

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