

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

April 2026



Letter from the President

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

Thank God Spring is finally here! I am looking forward to more outside activities and fresh, warmer air.

There's a lot going on in our club these days. We've started ramping up our Show preparation, holding our 1st Show meeting March 18th. We'd like to encourage more people to take on some of the areas we provide at the Show. Each area needs someone to Head it up. To organize, recruit volunteers to staff it, make sure everything needed is packed, sorted etc.

1. Show Co-Chairs Jerri Heer and Jim Nowak, understudy Ruth Jacobs
2. Admissions
3. Kid's Activities
4. Cave of Secrets
5. Displays
6. Demo Alley
7. Club Table
8. Scholarship Raffle
9. Door Prizes

This is not a complete list, but will give you an idea of what all we have to do to get ready for the show. If you'd like to volunteer to chair or co-chair an area, contact Jim Nowak or myself, or come to a meeting. With Jim's assistance and a lot of his hard work we are creating a Show Handbook that will clearly define each area.

We are also progressing on our 501(c)3 process. We have chosen a name for the new entity: The Toledo Geological and Rockhound Club. By the end of the month, we should have our registration with the State of Ohio complete and possibly our registration with the IRS. We'll keep you updated as things are updated.

We have a big club meeting in April. Our plan is to start with a brief session of cracking geodes with the clubs' cracker, followed by the regular meeting and our 1st auction of this year; this one benefiting the club. Perfect for Spring cleaning... bring in those unwanted items, excess rocks, specimens and lapidary stuff to contribute to the club.

We hope to see ALL of you there!

Jerri Heer
President

Birthstones

Modern: **Diamond**

Traditional: **Diamond**

Alternate: **Quartz**

Ancient Hebrew: **Sapphire**

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

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



Happy Easter



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

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 Workshop-

Ready to try something creative, fun, and hands-on? Join us for an exciting Wire Wrapping & Weaving Workshop at the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club. Whether you are brand new to wire work or simply curious to learn, this workshop is a welcoming place to begin.

You'll learn basic wire wrapping skills, explore tools and wire types, and practice techniques that can open the door to creating your own beautiful pieces such as pendants, chains, bracelets, and earrings. We'll begin a simple project while discovering how wire can flow with the shape of a stone instead of forcing a design. It's all about learning, experimenting, and enjoying the creative process.

Bring materials for projects you would like to work on, including wire, beads, cabochons, tools, and even irregular-shaped objects. For those joining us for the first time, all materials will be provided. The cost is \$20. No prior experience is needed.

If this is your first workshop, please email ahead to let us know. Come learn new techniques, spark your creativity, and maybe even discover a new passion for creating wearable art with wire and stone. Sunday, April 5th: 1-4PM / Saturday, April 18th 11AM-3PM



Two-day Anodizing Workshop Sat and Sunday, April 11 and 12

Join metalsmith and member Deb Hoffmaster to learn a different way to color metal.. Niobium and titanium may be immersed in an electrolytic bath and charged with a current to create permanent, vibrant colors in a sub-micron thick color layer. This process is called anodizing. In this class you will learn about the process, the equipment necessary to anodize, some techniques to produce different patterns of color and how to set your finished pieces.

Space is limited to 8 students, and you need prior experience using a jeweler's saw to cut complex shapes from metal sheet. Students receive an introductory kit from Reactive Metals that includes a guide to anodizing, several patterned discs and Niobium sheet and wire to create pieces for colorization. Register through moderator Michelle Grigore: mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com. Prepayment of the \$125 fee is due March 15th and there are no refunds if you don't attend due to the upfront material costs."



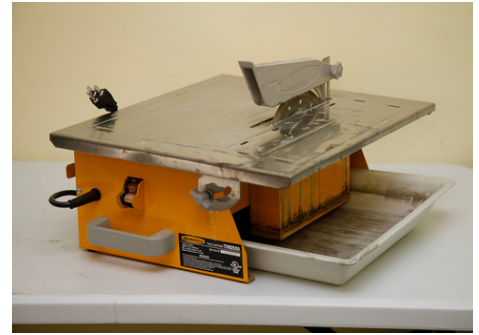
Beginning Gem Tree Class - Sunday, April 19, 1-4 PM. Cost \$25 includes all materials and instructions, as well as club session fee. Limited to 12 spaces.

I've been asked frequently about holding Gem Tree classes, so here's your first chance! We'll start with a basic tree, with 9 branches of 7 leaves per branch. Participants will have a wide variety of leaf stone types, wire color and bases for their trees and should be able to complete their tree in one session.

During the class, we will discuss basic techniques, tips for successful construction and start to explore the world of Species Specific trees.

If interested, contact Jerri Heer at jheerx6@aol.com. Emails will give me written contact. If you indicate you have questions, include a number for a return call.





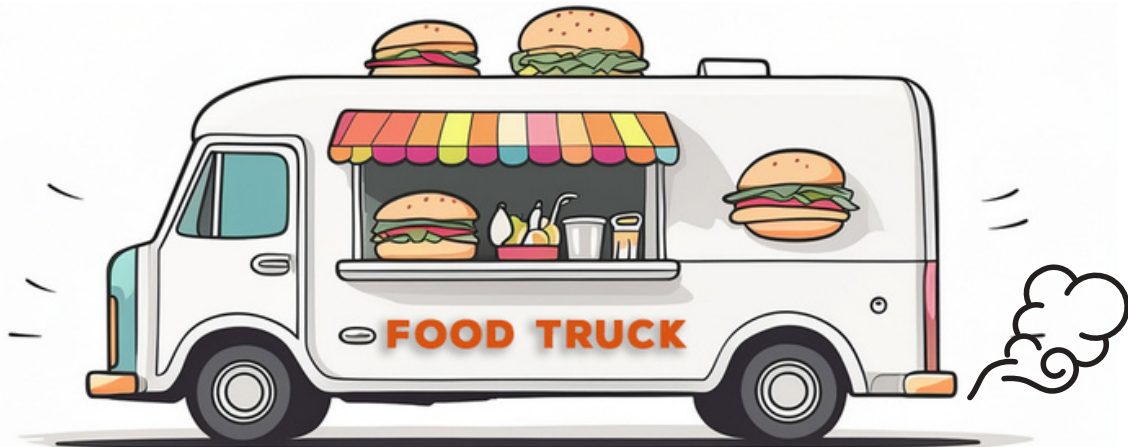
"TGRC Auction Wednesday, April 15th after our 7:00PM monthly meeting!
Here are just a few items up for bid. All proceeds benefit your Toledo
Gem and Rockhound Club!"



Let's Eat!

TGRC is trying to find a licensed food truck operator to be on-site for Treasures Unearthed 2026 at the Wood County Fairgrounds on September 11-12-13. We'd like the truck ready to serve lunches and beverages from about 10:00AM until 3:00PM.

We all know that going to rock shows can really work up an appetite! Our vendors, staff, volunteers and visitors really appreciated the service last year. If you have any contacts to help us locate and schedule a food truck, contact Editor.RockyReader@gmail.com right away. Thanks!



Meet the Moderators: Stacy Flynn

Pop quiz: What is “intarsia?”

- An incurable disease that causes its victims to obsessively collect rocks
- A fabulous, lost gemstone mine supposedly located in the legendary Atlantis
- A lapidary technique that precisely inlays different gemstones together

Correct answer: C (although many of us can be diagnosed with A.)

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club moderator Stacy Flynn is experimenting with intarsia (pronounced “in-TAR-shuh”) as part of her gem crafter sessions. As Rocky Reader reported in July 2025, Stacy is a teacher with unquenchable curiosity. She loves to learn so she can teach. Therefore, Stacy realized that as a TGRC Member she could try a new technique using the resources available to Club members.

Stacy’s interest in polishing stones started with a tumbler but she quickly felt frustrated because she couldn’t control the shapes of the polished stones. That led her to joining TGRC in January 2025 to learn cabbing in the gem crafters area. In a short time, her diligence qualified her to be a moderator, and she has since immersed herself in gem crafting. This path led her to intarsia.

Stacy watches Highland Park Lapidary’s streaming how-to videos (www.HPlapidary.com). One feature is called “Cut & Chat.” They demonstrated intarsia and Stacy says her reaction was, “I can do that!” TGRC’s flat lap machines, combined with Stacy’s knowledge of precision cutting and shaping soon had her cutting and fitting stones in intarsia. “From my quilting, I knew how to cut and assemble with precision. My first attempt combined five rock shapes and I cabbed that,” Stacy remembers. Since then, she’s made dozens of intarsia projects.

The attraction of intarsia is truly timeless. While intarsia can be done with wood inlay or other materials too, at TGRC intarsia involves cutting and fitting stones in a pattern, then affixing them to a stone backing. The concept dates to ancient Egypt and was wildly popular during the Renaissance in the 1500’s and 1600’s. While still a detailed and intricate art, today’s tools make the intarsia process much less intimidating.

Stacy finds her intarsia journey very satisfying. She admits that more than once she has gotten giddy as the pieces come together beautifully. As far as her creative designs, “I’m inspired by the stones. Most of the stones I’ve bought lately have been for my intarsia projects.” One of her most recent triumphs was a two-sided pendant that’s reversible. In the meantime, there’s no end in sight in her journey of discovery.

To learn more, stop by one of Stacy’s gem crafter sessions and talk to her. Look in the Rocky Reader events calendar to find when she’s scheduled.

-Story by Jim Nowak



Board Members

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APRIL 2026

- Faceting
- Glass Crafting
- Gem Crafters
- Extream Beaders
- Metal Crafters
- Collection/I.D
- Juniors
- Wire Wrapping
- Rocky Reader

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

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