

# Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club



May 2026

## Letter from the President

Hello Everyone!

We are well into spring now as evidenced by the fluctuating weather patterns. So far since my return to Ohio we've had the most snowfall in ten years, the most rainfall this spring, I'm afraid to wonder if we'll have a drought this summer! Regardless, we are well into the year, and well into our Show Planning. We've been holding planning meetings at 6 pm before every general meeting.

The Show is always our biggest event, biggest fundraiser of our year. We would love to have everyone volunteer to participate. We'd also love to have someone to spearhead every organizational area of the show. We have a pretty extensive planning guide that has been created by Jim Nowak and contributed to by many of our show volunteers. We're not asking anyone to reinvent the wheel here, just to help organize specific areas come to a show meeting, come to volunteer.

We've been expanding our class offerings as well to help use our club facility as much as possible. New wire wrap classes, new gem tree classes, ongoing Gem crafters and Metal crafters sessions, juniors, the sky is the limit!

In April I had a Cub Scout group in for a session on fossils. I'm also supposed to be doing a program at the Rossford Library in June for their summer reading program. All of these kinds of things help to solidify our 501(c)3 purpose of educating the public. If anyone in the club participates in this kind of an event, please document it and let us know so that we can justify our 501(c) three application.

Our club is a great resource both to our members and to the general public. We need to get the word out there of what we are all about. We can be proud of our over 60 year history of doing just that,

Respectfully,

Jerri Heer  
President

### Birthstones

Modern: **Emerald**

Traditional: **Emerald**

Alternate: **Chrysoptase**

Ancient Hebrew: **Agate**

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

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



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



## Sandcasting Rings-

Students will learn how to make a sand mold and use molten metal to create their own bronze ring from a variety of available patterns. There are five dates to choose from, but only three students per class. Register by contacting Michelle at [mgfirebug@gmail.com](mailto:mgfirebug@gmail.com). Class fee is \$45 and class open only for members. No prerequisites or experience required. Saturday May 30, June 27 from noon to 3 pm Tuesday May 26, June 9, June 30 from noon to 3 pm



## Inlay Ring Class-

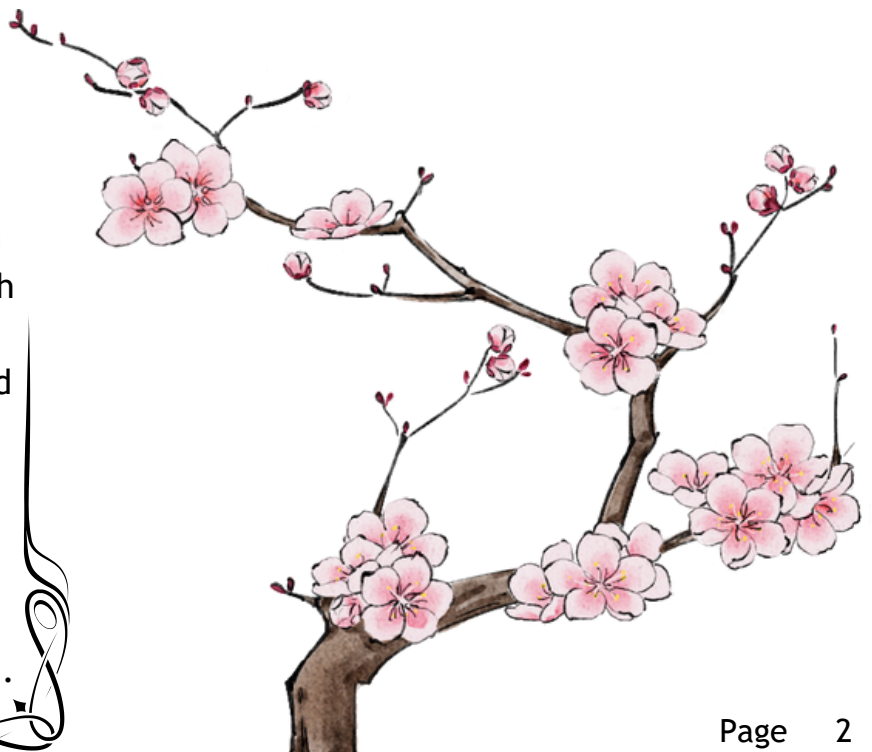
Students will learn how to use crushed turquoise or other precious stones to make an inlaid stainless steel ring. All materials are provided for the class fee of \$45. Class is limited to five students and ring sizes are limited to the blanks on hand. Register for one of the two classes below by emailing Michelle at [mgfirebug@gmail.com](mailto:mgfirebug@gmail.com). Saturday May 16 or June 6 from 11 am to 2 pm.



## Torch-fired Metal Clay Pendant-

Sunday May 24, 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

Using copper or bronze metal clay, students will learn to roll out, impress, dry and then torch fire a 1" pendant. All materials will be provided for the class fee of \$30. Class is limited to 4 students. To register, email Michelle at [mgfirebug@gmail.com](mailto:mgfirebug@gmail.com). If there is enough interest, future classes will be offered.



### Wire Wrapping Workshop-

Join us for upcoming Wire Wrapping & Weaving Workshops at the Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club. These hands-on sessions are a welcoming place for beginners and continuing students alike to learn wire wrapping skills, explore tools and wire types, and practice techniques that can inspire the creation of pendants, chains, bracelets, and earrings.

Erika's upcoming workshops will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. In May, participants will focus on wire weaving patterns and components

Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. For those attending for the first time, the cost is \$20 and all materials are provided. Returning participants are \$3 per hour. Participants are encouraged to bring materials for projects they would like to work on, including wire, beads, cabochons, tools, and irregular-shaped objects. For questions or to sign up for Erika's workshops, email [Erika.tgrc@gmail.com](mailto:Erika.tgrc@gmail.com).



### Gem Tree Class -

Our first gem tree class was held on April 19, with three participants two of which became new members. We had a lot of fun and everyone made their first basic tree.

Our next session will be May 9 from noon until 5 PM, where everyone will be making a dogwood tree. Please contact Jerri Heer at [JHEERX6@aol.com](mailto:JHEERX6@aol.com) to register and for questions. Class fee is \$25 and includes all materials and tools for use. Class size limited to six participants.

Hi fellow rockhounds. Diane Bieber is downsizing her collection of rocks and minerals and slabs. She is having a sale on Friday and Saturday, May 15 and May 16. Time of the sale on those days will be 10am to 4:00pm. On Sunday May 17 the sale will be 10am to 2pm. The sale will be at 6030 Main Street, Sylvania, OH. She is also getting rid of antiques and miscellaneous tools and some furniture. Lots of things to look at and maybe you can make a good deal with her. If you go, parking is available on Long Street.

-From Diane Bieber

Mineral Collectors: I apologize for not having a mineral collectors session. There will not be a mineral collectors session this month either. My new job is taking a lot of my time and attention. I am seeking help in running things so I can make more events and especially outings happen. If anyone is interested please message me my email address is

[maxwellkelso@gmail.com](mailto:maxwellkelso@gmail.com)

-From Max Kelso

Enameling Work Sessions on select Tuesdays from 12 to 3 PM. The studio kiln will be on for those who want to come and enamel their own work. You need to provide you're own metal. Use of the kiln and studio enameling supplies is \$6 on top of the usual \$3/hr fee. Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to start with

-From Michelle Grigore

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club's Annual Show & Sale Needs You.  
Volunteer today AND get a limited edition T-shirt!!

The next planning meeting for Treasures Unearthed 2026 will be on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00PM, just before our regular monthly Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club (TGRC) meeting. WE NEED YOU to volunteer and to help plan for our September 11-12-13 show!

Especially if you're new to the Club, this is a great opportunity to meet other members and learn more about Treasures Unearthed. Sign up is for at least a two-hour shift, (which usually flies by!) Many members enjoy signing up for a few shifts and mix the station assignments. Here are some easy but necessary jobs:

1. Admissions - Three people will be at the Show entrance to sell entry tickets. The training is very simple. You will help accept cash or credit cards using a simple, Square electronic tablet. Each adult is given a free door prize ticket, too. That's it!
2. Scholarship Raffle Tickets Two people are at this station, where you (drum roll)... sell raffle tickets! This is a fund-raiser so TGRC can give scholarships to University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University earth sciences students. The raffle prizes, which are made and donated by our members, will be displayed to help make this an easy sell. Once again, using the simple, pre-programmed Square tablets we can easily accept cash or charge.
3. Merchandise Sales - TGRC has ultra-cool t-shirts, hoodies and other exclusive apparel to sell to fellow rockhounds. Two people are usually at this station. This is an additional fund-raising opportunity that helps our Club. Once again, you'll use our simple Square tablet to accept cash or charge.

Remember that Treasures Unearthed is the biggest fund-raiser to keep TGRC operating and depends upon TGRC Member volunteers. The more successful the Show is, the better the club can be. At Treasures Unearthed Our philosophy for volunteers is simple: "If everyone does a little, nobody has to do a lot." Join us for the fun!

Volunteer at SignUpGenius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAC2BBAF4C52-63522430-toledo>

-From Jim Nowak



### What Lies Beneath:

#### Imaging the Hidden World Below Our Feet

Have you ever looked across an open field and wonder what lies under the surface? That's what Dr. Kennedy Doro, Associate Professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Toledo wants to know too. However, he knows how to find out without digging. Using sophisticated technology, he can research and analyze subsurface structures that show geologic formations, water flow and even archeological and forensic items buried down to about 30 feet deep and more, no shovel or backhoe needed.

Primarily, Dr. Doro researches soils and groundwater, which is what led him from Nigeria through Europe to Northwest Ohio. "Where I grew up, if you were interested in science you were expected to become a medical doctor or an engineer," he explained, so he initially went to college to study medicine. Then he was introduced to geophysics, used in West Africa for oil and gas exploration, but he saw its potential for researching soil and groundwater systems. Just like doctors can use MRIs, ECGs or x-rays to see inside a patient without surgery, he realized that geophysics would allow underground exploration without digging. He changed his study of medicine to geology and after earning his bachelor's degree in Nigeria, he went to Tuebingen, Germany. There he earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees in applied geosciences and later joined Fugro Land GmbH, an environmental consultancy firm, as a Direct Sensing Specialist and Field Engineer. Believe it or not, that's where he found out about the opportunity to join the faculty at the University of Toledo. He also recognized the Ohio region as an excellent place to study soil and groundwater processes.

Ironically, he arrived in Northwest Ohio after the water crisis caused by the algal bloom in Lake Erie occurred with ongoing efforts to mitigate nutrient loading into the Lake. Having seen algal blooms and watershed problems in Europe, he was better prepared to examine this in Ohio. Sited as Toledo is on Lake Erie and over a major watershed, he recognized the location as a hotbed of opportunity for geophysics.

"Water flows through the soil and concentrates minerals," Kennedy explained. Underground water sources like wells are replenished by rainwater percolating through the soil. Soils and sediments affect how that water flows and what's deposited. The occurrence of so-called "egg water" found in some regional wells in Northwest Ohio is a perfect example. "Hydrogen sulphide is natural because of composition of the rock," says Dr. Doro. "Add water and that's what causes the Sulphur taste and smell." It also was commonly accepted that the region's subsurface was clay and bedrock, but Dr. Doro's studies proved a more varied underground foundation, which directly impacts how and where the water moves underground. What we don't see, though, is important as well.

"As a highly visible landmark, Lake Erie draws a lot of attention from the State of Ohio." However, the vast, underground Michigan-Ohio-Indiana aquifer is also critical to the region's water supply. "Chemical and toxic wastes can permeate through the soil and contaminate the underground water." E-coli bacteria may also seep down if fecal materials and leachates from landfills are not carefully contained. He advocates monitoring all our water sources. Put simply, prevention is much more efficient than clean-up.

On the much longer geological timeline, the same mechanisms of mineral deposit can result in crystals, fossils and successive layers that form agates. Many TGRC members collect the specimens that are formed over millennia by minerals deposited by water. Dr. Doro collects short-term data about more immediate impact of water movement through soils. Both, however, do so with a real passion for the results.

Dr. Doro will be explaining his research in more detail at the May 20th Toledo Gem and Rockhound monthly meeting. His presentation starts at 7:00PM and is free to TGRC members and their guests.

-Story by Jim Nowak, TGRC Vice President



## 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  
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### Past President

Diane Bieber  
Quartz1tgrc@gmail.com

### Sergeant-At-Arms

Bill Oswald  
Catstgrc@gmail.com

### Board Member

William Miniard  
Williamminiard.trgc@gmail.com

### Board Member

Sherm Kardatzke  
Sakardaszke@gmail.com

### Board Member

Dana Jacob-Szymanski  
Tjd021911@gmail.com

## LEADING MEMBERS

### Website Editor

Steve Stalker  
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### 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  
Tgrcjuniors@gmail.com

### Sunshine Chair

Linda Mcconahey  
567-277-8238

# Calendar

# MAY 2026

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

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

# JUNE 2026

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

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

1 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	2 Extream Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3	3	4	5	6 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
7 Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	8 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	9 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	10 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	11	12 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Juniors 3-4 Stacy Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
14	15 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	16 Extream Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3	17 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	18	19 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Wire Wrapping 11-3 Erica
21 Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	22 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	23 Extream Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3	24	25	26 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
28	29 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	30 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle			