

# Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

June 2026



## Letter from the President

### President Message

I'm writing this from Young Harris, GA where I'm teaching 4 weeks of Gem Tree classes at the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. I want to thank our Vice President Jim Nowak for taking charge of the May Club meeting in my absence. I know he does a wonderful job! I will be back for the Show Committee and Club Meeting on June 17th.

Things are moving along for the Show preparation. We still need volunteers to oversee specific areas at the Show. That doesn't mean you have to be at the Show the whole weekend, just that you organize it, tag and train volunteers if needed and make sure supplies are available. Thanks to Jim Nowak's excellent outlines in the Show Procedural Manual, everything is laid out for you. Please consider stepping up to help. Call either of us to discuss.

The clubhouse usage continues to grow, and our financial picture is improving as a result. Take advantage of the classes and sessions available to you.

Enjoy your summer!

Jerri Heer  
President  
419-344-9999

### Birthstones

Modern: **Alexandrite**

Traditional: **Pearl**

Alternate: **Moonstone**

Ancient Hebrew: **Pearl**

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

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



### Table of Contents

- Letter from President . . . . . 1
- Workshops . . . . . 2
- Club News . . . . . 4
- Board Members . . . . . 6
- Club Calendar . . . . . 7

\*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 only three students per class. Register by contacting Michelle at least a week ahead of class at [mgfirebug@gmail.com](mailto:mgfirebug@gmail.com). Class fee is \$45 and class open only for members. No prerequisites or experience required. Saturday June 27 from 10 am to noon  
Tuesday June 9 from 10 am to noon

## 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 the class below by emailing Michelle a week ahead of class at [mgfirebug@gmail.com](mailto:mgfirebug@gmail.com). Saturday June 6 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Torch-fired Metal Clay Pendant Get on a list for future classes! 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. Email Michelle at [mgfirebug@gmail.com](mailto:mgfirebug@gmail.com). If there is enough interest, future classes will be offered.

## Gem Crafting- Thursdays

June 4, 11, 18 and July 2, 16, 30 - Michelle moderates 11 am to 3 pm.

## Wire Wrapping Workshop-

Wire Wrapping Workshop with Erika  
 The Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club is excited to share that Erika will be offering hands-on wire wrapping and weaving workshops on June 20 and July 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The workshop cost is \$25 per person.

Participants will learn wire wrapping techniques, practice wire weaving patterns, and explore creative ways to turn stones, cabochons, beads, and other treasures into beautiful wearable art. Please bring any wire, tools, beads, cabochons, or projects you would like to work on. Even if you do not have tools, wire, or stones, you are still welcome to come and create!

Workshop space is limited to 5 people, so please confirm your attendance by emailing [erika.tgrc@gmail.com](mailto:erika.tgrc@gmail.com).  
 Come ready to create, learn, and be inspired by the beauty of wire and stone!



## Gem Tree Class -

Participants of our series of Gem Tree classes are having fun! The May session was dedicated to the Dogwood tree. The June session will be dedicated to making a Bamboo Tree.

The date will be June 28, from 12-5 pm. Cost is \$25, space limited to 6 people. RSVP to Jerri Heer at [jheerx6@aol.com](mailto:jheerx6@aol.com). Registration is required to guarantee space and materials.

“Treasures Unearthed” is just 3 months away.  
Support your Club and Sign Up to Volunteer Today!!

What do you think? We’d like to know! The next Treasures Unearthed 2026 show meeting will be on Wednesday, June 17th at 6:00PM, just before our regular monthly Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club (TGRC) meeting. WE NEED YOU to volunteer to make our September 11-12-13 show a success. With just a two hour commitment as a Volunteer, you get free admission for that day AND a great t-shirt. Last month, we told you about the some of the choices you have as a volunteer and here are a few more:

1. Volunteers - Yep. We need a few volunteers to help organize our Volunteers. You’ll ask TGRC Club members to support the annual Show and maintain a roster of volunteers who have signed up. SignUpGenius is up and running for online signups. We just need a few people to contact other members and ask them to help. Smile and say, “Please?” Tricia Jackson and Michelle Grigore can answer questions on this pre-show volunteer opportunity.
2. Load and Unload Truck- Load the truck at our Clubhouse on September 10th to go to the Wood County Fairgrounds. Or load the truck for our return and unload on September 13th. Or both. A strong back is preferred, although we’ll also need a clipboard jockey to mark items as they are loaded and unloaded. Steve Stalker or Jim Nowak can give you details.
3. Kids’ Activities - This is fun. Volunteers will show children gem and jewelry-making crafts, providing them with introductory, creative, educational, hands-on activities. This area is family-friendly and includes the popular “Cave of Secrets” display. Stacy Flynn and Bill Tiede can explain the opportunities for this area.

Remember that Treasures Unearthed is the biggest fund-raiser to keep TGRC operating and relies on our generous 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/10C084CADAC2BABF4C52-63522430-toledo>



## Cut Your Costs, Not Your Creativity

As jewelry makers, we are facing wildly changing costs for gold, silver and copper. Yet even if you have a good supply of materials right now, replacement costs will likely be daunting as you work through your current stock. Well, as an artist you have two inexpensive solutions available to you:

- 1) Creativity
- 2) Your Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) membership.

Our first bit of advice is to come to the TGRC workshops so you can use the vast array of tools, expertise and techniques available to you as a TGRC member.

Here's a great chance to try new things and modify your primary design skills. This can be fun and even energizing. For example, look at simplifying your design so less metal is needed. Can you use lighter, filagree or wire accents instead of solid metal? Explore "negative space," where metal is cut away, leaving openings instead of solid metal to highlight key design elements. How about using prongs instead of a bezel to mount a stone, or a partial bezel instead of a full bezel? TGRC Moderators can give you thoughtful guidance to refresh your style.

Another refreshing design technique is to combine metals. Instead of making a solid silver setting, add copper or brass accents. Or work primarily in copper and add silver accents. Check your metal scrap collection. With a TGRC torch, in just seconds you can convert gnarled bits of metal into perfectly round, metal shot accents. The resulting contrast of mixed metals can be very dramatic and earn you many compliments.

Other options? Try learning a new technique that feature stones without using the expensive metals. Some excellent possibilities include wire-wrapping or beading. TGRC regularly offers guided classes in these techniques so it's easy to get started. Metal crafter moderators are experimenting with pewter alloys and brass for example. Do you have other ideas to share? If so, send them to [editor@rockyreader.com](mailto:editor@rockyreader.com) or post them on the TGRC Facebook page.

Workshop facilities make your jewelry-making opportunities almost unlimited. Members pay just \$3 an hour to use TGRC's extensive facilities. You'll find it's time and money very well spent. Check the calendars at [RockyReader.com](http://RockyReader.com) and in our monthly newsletter for available workshop hours. Let your TGRC membership work for you.



# Board Members

## 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  
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  
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  
Tgrcjuniors@gmail.com

### Sunshine Chair

Linda Mcconahey  
567-277-8238

# 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 4:30-8:30 Stacy	2 Enameling 12-3	3	4 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	5	6 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
7 Metal Crafters 4-7 Will Faceting 12:15-2:15 Anthony	8 Gem Crafters 4:30-8:30 Stacy	9 Extream Beaders 10-2	10	11 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	12	13 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
14 Glass Crafting 1-4 Steve	15 Gem Crafters 4:30-8:30 Stacy	16 Extream Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3	17 6:00 PM Show Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	18 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	19	20 Juniors 2-4 Stacy Wire Wrapping 11-3 Erika
21 Metal Crafters 4-7 Will	22 Gem Crafters 4:30-8:30 Stacy	23 Extream Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3	24	25 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	26	27 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
	29 Gem Crafters 10-3 Stacy	30 Extream Beaders 10-2				

# JULY 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

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	4
Metal Crafters 4-7 Will Faceting 12:15-2:15 Anthony		Extream Beaders 10-2	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Juniors 3-4 Stacy Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle		Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike		Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Wire Wrapping 11-3 Erica	Metal Crafters 4-7 Will Faceting 12:15-2:15 Anthony	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Extream Beaders 10-2	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm	Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	Metal Crafters 4-7 Will Faceting 12:15-2:15 Anthony	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Extream Beaders 10-2	Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle	Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm