

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

October 2026



Letter from the President

President's Message

It's hard to believe this year is drawing to a close, only 3 more months to go! Although the Show is over, we still have lots of activities between now and the end of the year.

As we did last year, we are planning a New Member Open House to welcome the 12 members who joined at the Show. The date is Sunday, October 25, from 12-4 pm. We hope to have representation from each of our groups, both to demonstrate and explain what each group is about. Light refreshments and tours will be available. Come join us to welcome our new members! Moderators, please contact Jerri Heer, Michelle Grigore or Jim Nowak to let us know if you are available to assist with tours or demonstrations.

Thank you!

Jerri Heer
President



Birthstones

Modern: **Tourmaline**

Traditional: **Opal**

Alternate: **Tourmaline**

Ancient Hebrew: **Aquamarine**

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.

Torch-fired Metal Clay Pendant-

Saturday Nov 21 from 10 to noon
Using copper or bronze metal clay,
students will learn to roll out,
impress, dry and then
kiln fire a 1" pendant for 30 min. All
materials will be provided for the
class fee of \$30.

Class is limited to 4 students. Email
Michelle a week ahead of the class
at
mgfirebug@gmail.com.



Wire Wrapping Workshop-

Ready to twist, loop, and wrap a little magic? New and experienced wire wrappers are invited to join our friendly monthly workshop. Beginners can learn step by step, while experienced makers can practice, experiment, and share ideas. Come create in good company and leave with something uniquely yours.

Upcoming Make and Take Workshops**October 17- Learn to Make a Pendant**

Choose a stone and learn how wire can frame it, hold it, and give it a whole new personality.

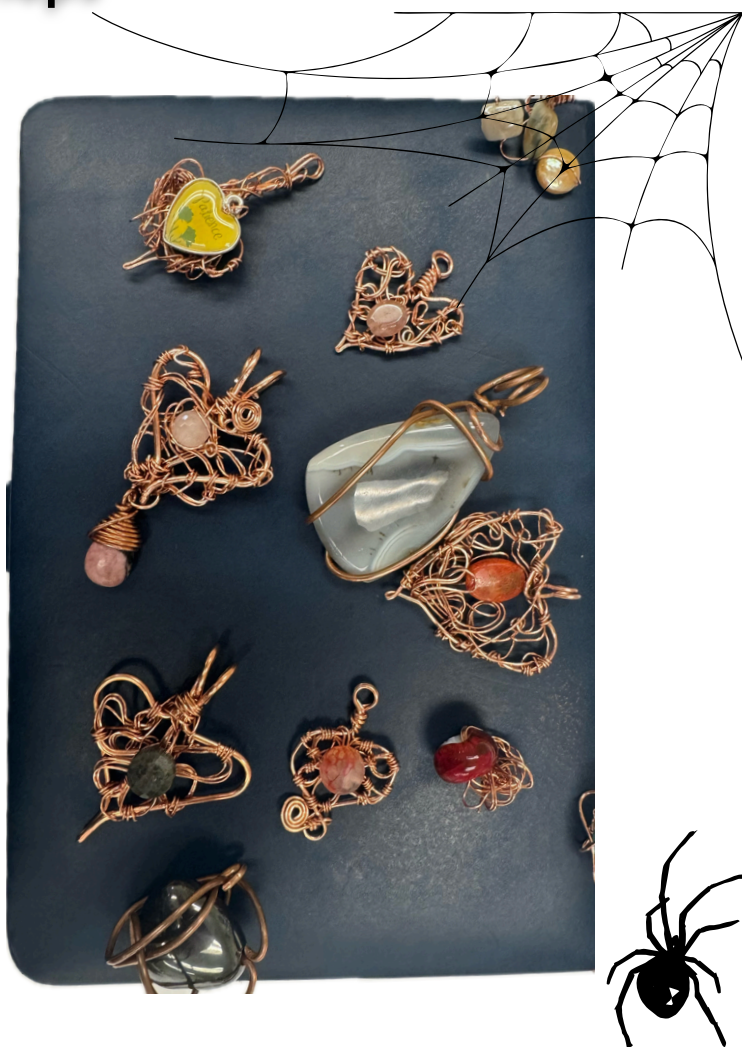
November 21- Charms and Chains

Create playful wire charms and connect them into chains you can use in future jewelry designs.

Make and Take fee \$25 for TGRC members | \$35 for nonmembers

Space is limited to five participants, so please RSVP early.

RSVP to Erika.tgrc@gmail.com

**Gem Tree Class-**

The Gem Tree Class has selected the Windswept Tree for their next project. Class will meet Sunday, October 18 from 12-4 pm. Class size is limited, so you must pre-register for a space. This will be our 5th class this year.

Cost is \$25/student at the door.

Contact Jerri Heer at jheerx6@aol.com or text to [419-344-9999](tel:419-344-9999) to register



Our Show is over and although we experienced some difficulties with our Facebook page and Food Vendor, our members came through with their dedicated volunteering throughout the weekend. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed to a wonderful weekend!

The Show committee is already working diligently to overcome the issues to continue improvements in our Show for next year. We have every confidence we will overcome the difficulties we had, especially with Cory and Heather Buford on our team, working with Jim Nowak. Between them, they have decades in advertising and social media.

We are looking into the possibility of running our own concession next year. When we achieve our 501(c)3 status, we should be able to obtain a single event, temporary permit for food service. This will give us much more control over both the menu and hours of service for the concession as well as provide another source of income. What we need at this point is a dedicated volunteer to spearhead and supervise the effort. This person would need to commit to working all three days to organize and coordinate the effort. We will have volunteers to assist with the food service, but desperately need that kitchen supervisor. Please consider stepping up to this vital position.

As always, we welcome constructive suggestions to aid and improve our show!

Jerri Heer and Jim Nowak
Show Co-Chairs



Treasures Unearthed 2026 Attracts Regional Rockhounds

For the 55th year, the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) hosted its annual rock, gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry show and sale. Like a glacier depositing tons of nature's mineral bounties, Treasures Unearthed dropped a breathtaking mix of earth's most fascinating rocks at the Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Dozens of TGRC volunteers brought this event to life. Planning started in February with the Treasures Unearthed team meeting every month to organize the 3-day event. The results brought 30 gem and mineral vendors to share their wares with regional rockhounds.

The heavy lifting (literally) started with loading the U-Haul truck at our Club, then unloading and setting up the displays in Bowling Green. The TGRC welcome center in Pratt Pavilion was soon prepared and readied for visitors the next morning. Show day! The fun started at the Admissions table with every adult guest receiving a Door Prize ticket. The Treasures Unearthed vendors were very generous in donating prizes so 34 show visitors walked away with unexpected treasures like fossils, mineral samples, flint arrowheads and polished gemstones. These bonus gifts always came with big smiles.

The TGRC Scholarship Raffle raises money for geology students at the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University. Here, the prizes were made by our talented Moderators and members, then donated to the cause. More than \$1,000 was raised for this worthy cause.

A primary focus of Treasures Unearthed is education. Display cases lined the welcome center, filled with works and rock collections of our talented TGRC members. Our "Cave of Secrets" let Families marvel at minerals fluorescing under ultra-violet light. At our activities section, young rockhounds could smash simulated geodes that revealed crystals, fossils or rock specimens for them to take home. A hundred free packets of educational fossils were given away and gem tree kits let budding gem artists make their own gem trees.

The finest in rockhound clothing styles were ready for the fashion runway with exclusive, custom-designed t-shirts and hoodies available for purchase. Many selections sold out of popular sizes.

Primed by the TGRC displays, our guests arrived at the expansive show and sale area, and the vendors provided a dizzying array of choices. Spectacular geodes and rare mineral specimens competed with gemstones and uncut rough material for attention. Fossils from around the world, elaborate gem trees and metaphysical crystals beacons.

A highlight this year was the revived TGRC Demonstrator area. The Extreme Beaders wove their intricate designs. Cabochons were created, intarsia demonstrated, metal crafting and wire-wrapping were shown, and gem trees were cultivated and crafted before appreciative visitors. Flint-knapping was featured again this year with guests trying their hands at this ancient skill. Demonstrators were asked many questions, and they explained how TGRC can teach these techniques. At least eight new members joined TGRC.

A lot was accomplished at Treasures Unearthed 2026 and we look forward to continuing expansion of our membership roster and passion for rocks. More show details will be provided at the TGRC monthly meeting on October 21st at 7:00PM. All members are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. Also -if you had an exciting find at Treasures Unearthed, bring it along and share your new treasure with your fellow rockhounds!

Story by Jim Nowak
Vice President,
TGRC



TREASURES UNEARTHED GETS A NEW ONLINE HOME — AND THERE'S MORE TO COME

If you visited the Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club (TGRC) website this year, you may have noticed something different about **Treasures Unearthed**. For 2026, the Club's event page, RockyReader.com/treasures-uneearthed/ received a major redesign.

The goal was simple: make it easier for someone who has never attended a rock show before to understand what Treasures Unearthed is, what they can expect when they arrive, and how they can get involved. But the new page does something else, too. It gives TGRC a better way to learn what people are interested in.

Instead of asking a first-time visitor to already understand the Club or the hobby, the page is designed to answer the questions a newcomer is likely to have:

What's there?

Is it something my family would enjoy? Can I learn something?

Can I participate?

Where do I go?

What should I expect?

That matters because Treasures Unearthed isn't just a place to buy rocks. It's an opportunity to introduce people to **geology, mineral collecting, lapidary arts, demonstrations, education and the people behind the hobby.**

How www.RockyReader.com/treasures-uneearthed Became Part of the Show.

There's another important change that isn't necessarily visible when you look at the page. We can now measure what happens after someone sees an advertisement or social-media post. During the 2026 show campaign, Google Analytics recorded:

- 2,209 website sessions from August 17 through September 13
- 1,578 views of the Treasures Unearthed page
- 1,177 active users on the event page
- 595 sessions from Paid Social, making it the largest single traffic source

Treasures Unearthed happens once a year. The relationships created by the Club don't have to. A person who discovers TGRC through the show might become:

- a Club member,
- a volunteer,
- a demonstrator,
- a collector,
- a lapidary or metal artist,
- a donor,
- a future show exhibitor,
- or simply someone who shares an interest in rocks and minerals with other people

The website and email can help keep that connection alive between shows. The show isn't the end of the relationship. It's often the beginning.

What Comes Next?

- The 2026 redesign gives TGRC a foundation. Now we can begin learning from it. Over time, the goal is to better understand not just how many people we reach, but what happens afterward. The new Treasures Unearthed page is one piece of that larger effort. And there's more coming.

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
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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
Sakardatzke@gmail.com

Board Member

Dana Jacob-Szymanski
Tjd021911@gmail.com

LEADING MEMBERS

Website Editor

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Newsletter Editor

William Miniard
Editor.rockyreader@gmail.com

Show Chair

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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

- Faceting

■ Glass Crafting

■ Gem Crafters

■ Extreme Beaders
- Metal Crafters

■ Collection/I.D

■ Juniors

■ Wire Wrapping
- Enameling

■ Rocky Reader

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	2	3 Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
4	5 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy Glass Crafting 5-8 Steve	6 Extreme Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	7	8 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	9	10 Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
11	12 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy	13 Extreme Beaders 10-2	14	15 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	16	17 Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike Juniors 2-4 Stacy Wire Wrapping 11-3 Erika
18	19 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy Glass Crafting 5-8 Steve	20 Extreme Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	21 7:00 PM Annual Club Meeting	22 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	23	24 Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
25	26 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy	27 Extreme Beaders 10-2	28 Faceting 12:45 -3 Anthony	29 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	30	31 Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike

NOVEMBER 2026

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy	3 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	4	5 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	6	7 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
8	9 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy	10 Extreme Beaders 10-2 Enameling 12-3	11	12 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	13	14 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
15	16 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy	17 Extreme Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	18 7:00 PM Annual Club Meeting	19 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	20	21 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Wire Wrapping 11-3 Erica Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
22	23 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy	24 Extreme Beaders 10-2	25	26 Thanksgiving No Classes	27	28 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
29	30 Gem Crafters 4-8 Stacy					