TGRC VOL. 64 ISSUE 11

# Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

November 2026

## Letter from the President

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!

Based on the temperatures and leaf colors, fall is definitely here! It's time to look forward to next year in many ways.

First, it is time to renew your membership. The membership year runs from January 1-Dec 31 each year. The dues we pay to the MWF are based on our Dec 31 headcount. On the plus side, if you renew now, you'll pay the current rate, whereas after Dec 31, you'll pay the new rate approved by the Board earlier this year. So get your renewals in now!

Second, we held a New Member Open House last month, and although only a few came in, we hope all our new members take the opportunity to stop in for a tour. Thank you to all of our moderators and members who gave of their time to help during the open house. Our volunteerism makes our club strong!

Third, November is election month for our country and our club. Come to our November meeting to vote for your new officers.

Finally, December will be our Annual Christmas Potluck. We hope you will all join us for that as well.

Blessing to you all

Jerri Heer
President




### Birthstones

Modern: **Citrine**
Traditional: **Topaz**
Alternate: **Andalusite**
Ancient Hebrew: **Topaz**

If you would like a detailed breakdown, you can check out the following site:
https://www.gia.edu/birthstones





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# Workshops



*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-

with Erika

Calling all rockhounds! Got a pile of pretty stones just waiting for a little wire and a lot of love? Grab your pliers (or don't, I've got you) and come wrap with me! Beginners, pros, and the "I've always wanted to try that" crowd are all welcome.

Mark your calendars, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.:

Sunday, November 15
Saturday, November 21
Saturday, December 19

Open Workshop: $3 per hour
Bring that half-finished project you keep promising to get back to, pull up a chair, and wrap with friends. We'll swap tips, share ideas, and probably admire each other's rocks way too much. That's half the fun!

Wrap and Take: $25
Brand new to wrapping, or want a little extra hand-holding? This one's for you! I'll guide you step by step, and you'll head home with your very own finished piece to show off (or gift, if you can bear to part with it). Please RSVP so I can bring the right supplies just for you.

**RSVP, pretty please!**
I'll be there with bells on for both November dates. December 19 depends on you! If I don't get any RSVPs, I'll have to cancel, and nobody wants that. RSVP to Erika.tgrc@gmail.com.

Come get wrapped up in the fun, and happy holidays!





## Gem Tree Class-

Our October class created Windswept Trees. The picture is the finished tree from student Donna Bucklew.

I'd like to teach the Christmas Tree in December, but it will require a full day or two half days to complete. If you are interested in this tree, reach out to Jerri Heer at jheerx6@aol.com to be included in the discussion of possible dates.

Class fee for this tree will be $45.
Merry Christmas!







TGRC's Gem Crafters present the November auction featuring specimens, tools, gemstones, crystals, beading supplies and other cool items from our Club's extensive storage! The November meeting starts at 7:00PM on Wednesday, November 18th and the auction begins right after the meeting.

Auction items ready for pre-auction inspection have already started piling up in our main conference room. More is being added so expect some top quality surprise items to be offered!

Lots of potential bargains are already in the inventory. All proceeds from these auctions go back into TGRC. Find some deals and help your Club!



# Open House Encourages New TGRC Members

Who are they? What do they do? Will I find it interesting? Can I learn how?
These questions often run through the minds of people who join the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC). The next step is making a first visit to the Club and finding the answers.
On October 18th, TGRC's newer members were cordially invited to visit the Club for a special Open House and see for themselves. A dozen TGRC Moderators and members were on-hand to demonstrate beading, wire-wrapping, gem crafting, metal crafting and faceting. Attendance by newer members was light but to be honest, it's difficult to compete with a warm, autumn day when the temperature outside is in the low 70 degrees.

Nevertheless, the members who did drop by were given individual attention with plenty of time to be introduced to gem and jewelry techniques, first-hand. They seemed awe-struck by the many facets, (pun intended,) of TGRC's gem- and jewelry-related opportunities. Questions were asked and answered. Best of all, several of our new members already plan to return and get started.
With holidays on the horizon and cold weather on the way, now is an excellent time to discover the satisfaction of making jewelry yourself. Who doesn't feel appreciated when they receive a one-of-a-kind, hand-made gift? Maybe you create a wire-wrapped, colorful stone necklace or an iridescent, rainbow-colored anodized pendant? Perhaps start cutting and polishing gemstones or craft metal pieces. Extreme Beaders use simple tools to make impressive projects and will help you learn how, too. It's not intimidated because with a little guidance from our Moderators you can easily begin creating dramatically eye-pleasing, strikingly impressive jewelry!

Why not get started this week? Look on the calendars either at the end of this newsletter or visit https://rockyreader.com/calendar/ for upcoming sessions and classes.
TGRC Moderators are always present for these schedule sessions. Not only will they very gladly help you get started; they are there to help you learn new skills and expand your creativity No appointment is necessary for the regular sessions. Just drop in. Special classes may require registration but those are clearly identified.
TGRC is at 2453 Tremainsville Rd., Suite B. Come in and discover what you can do!





# Learning Beyond Basics

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) loves welcoming new members to learn about gems and jewelry. However, TGRC also goes beyond the basics with specialized classes for more experienced members, too.

On September 25th, renowned jewelry artist and guest instructor Jiro Masuda came to TGRC's metal crafting workshop and presented an "Introduction to Stone Setting." For a full three hours, Masuda taught hands-on methods of more advanced techniques like flush-setting, tube-setting and hammered bezels.
Jiro Masuda describes himself as a "metalsmith, jeweler, educator, and arts advocate who grew up in Michigan and has spent more than 30 years making, teaching, and helping students discover what they can do creatively." He's currently an instructor at several higher-education schools in Michigan, including Monroe Community College.

For this special session at TGRC, Masuda quickly unpacked and set up his well-organized workspace. Like any talented artisan, he made his expert-level skills look easy. Class members were provided with packets of supplies including metal, stones and other fundamental items so there would be no delays in starting the class. The first step for the class was to shape and forge its own specialized tools by sanding and polishing the tips of concrete nails for stone-setting. Then, the class made silver bezels and soldered them to copper plates to practice hammered bezel techniques using provided hematite cabochons. Masuda supplied everyone with 4mm cubic zirconia, setting burrs and drill bits for the next phase. This led to flush-setting and tube-setting faceted stones, which gives a refined look to jewelry design. Just as with magic tricks, it's easier once you know the secrets, but it takes practice to become proficient.

Masuda understands the sometimes-rocky path to refining jewelry-making skills. As far as his philosophy, "I'm passionate about creating studio environments where students feel comfortable experimenting, taking risks, making mistakes, and finding their own artistic voice." Judging from the enthusiasm in this class, he has certainly inspired some really dedicated TGRC jewelry artists.
All TGRC members are encouraged to take advantage of the many hands-on sessions and special-skills classes regularly offered. Check the TGRC online calendar at https://rockyreader.com/calendar/ and see what learning options are waiting 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

**Secratary**
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**
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

# Calendar

# 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<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy | 3<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2<br>Metal Crafters 3-7<br>Mike<br>Enameling 12-3 | 4 | 5<br>Gem Crafters 11-3<br>Michelle | 6 | 7<br>Metal Crafters 12-3<br>Mike<br>Gem Crafters 10-3<br>Sherm |
| 8 | 9<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy<br>Glass Crafting 5-8<br>Steve | 10<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2 | 11 | 12<br>Gem Crafters 11-3<br>Mike | 13 | 14<br>Metal Crafters 12-3<br>Mike |
| 15<br>Wire Wrapping 11-3<br>Erika | 16<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy | 17<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2<br>Metal Crafters 3-7<br>Mike<br>Enameling 12-3 | 18<br>6:00 PM Annual<br>Club Meeting<br>7:00 PM Club<br>Auction | 19<br>Gem Crafters 11-3<br>Michelle | 20 | 21<br>Metal Crafters 12-3<br>Michelle<br>Juniors 2-4 Stacy<br>Wire Wrapping 11-3<br>Erika |
| 22 | 23<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy<br>Glass Crafting 5-8<br>Steve | 24<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28<br>Gem Crafters 10-3<br>Sherm |
| 29 | 30<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy | | | | | |

# Calendar

# DECEMBER 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<br>Metal Crafters 3-7<br>Mike | 2 | 3<br>Gem Crafters 11-3<br>Michelle | 4 | 5<br>Gem Crafters 10-3<br>Sherm<br>Metal Crafters 12-3<br>Mike |
| 6 | 7<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy | 8<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2<br>Enameling 12-3 | 9 | 10<br>Gem Crafters 11-3<br>Mike | 11 | 12<br>Gem Crafters 10-3<br>Sherm<br>Metal Crafters 12-3<br>Michelle |
| 13 | 14<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy | 15<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2<br>Metal Crafters 3-7<br>Mike | 16<br>7:00 PM Annual<br>Club Meeting | 17<br>Gem Crafters 11-3<br>Michelle | 18 | 19<br>Gem Crafters 10-3<br>Sherm<br>Wire Wrapping 11-3<br>Erica<br>Metal Crafters 12-3<br>Mike |
| 20 | 21<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy | 22<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2<br>Enameling 12-3 | 23 | 24<br>Christmas Eve<br>No Classes | 25<br>Christmas Day<br>No Classes | 26<br>Gem Crafters 10-3<br>Sherm |
| 27 | 28<br>Gem Crafters 4-8<br>Stacy | 29<br>Extreme Beaders<br>10-2<br>Metal Crafters 3-7<br>Mike | 30 | 31<br>Gem Crafters 11-3<br>Mike | | |