

Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

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December, 2015

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December Program: We celebrate December with a potluck dinner and a gift collection for Lucas County Children's Services on December 16 beginning at 6PM.

We will start dinner promptly at 6:10pm so please arrive by 6:00pm to set out your dish. Everybody who comes is asked to bring a meat dish plus a:

- dessert if your LAST name begins with A-J or

-vegetable dish if your LAST name begins with K - Z

Please remember to bring your own plates and utensils

Gift collection for Children's Services of Lucas County

Please bring a new unwrapped gift or gifts. Children's services are particularly in need of gifts for babies/very young children and teenagers, although any gifts are appreciated and will be given homes! Teenagers appreciate gift cards for food and/or music and books.

Ho Ho Ho Party: Dec. 2nd at 6:30 in the craft center. Bring a dish to pass.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take an opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Fall Open House. I would especially like to thank those who demonstrated and the groups who set up tables to showcase what we do as a club. We gained several new members and some old ones stopped by to visit and renew memberships. Thank you also to those who came out to support the club auction at the November meeting. The usual shenanigans and hijinks did apply and, of course, a good time was had by all!

The November meeting was not all fun and games, unfortunately. This year, for the first time that I am aware of, we have been unable to find a nominee who will agree to take on the job of President. The Vice President's position will also be vacant following the December meeting. In light of these unfilled positions on the ballot, the body who was present at the meeting voted to defer the election until December. Before that meeting, the board will have had an opportunity to meet and will come prepared to submit a plan for how to proceed in 2016. There will be important decisions to be made if no one comes forward to run so I encourage you to do your best to make it to the December meeting.

Editorial Musings

Greetings Club Members. I am taking over from Lyn Kalinoski as the Rocky Reader Editor.

First, I would like to thank Lyn for her years of service in this position and encourage all of you to do so when you see her at a meeting or other club event. She is a very busy lady and we are grateful for the time she was able to give to us.

Now, on to publication details. I will maintain Lyn's deadlines for submissions to the Rocky Reader. If you want it in the upcoming Reader, then I will need to have an e-mail with the content of the submission by 9 PM on the Monday following the club meeting. If I do not have a submission from a group leader, I will just run a blanket statement indicating the times you normally meet.

My goal is to have the Reader in your hands, either electronically or physically, before the new month. I will be assisted in this by Steve Shimatzki who will print and FTP the Reader to the website. However, please note, that I will deliver the Reader to Steve in an uneditable format. Therefore any errors are mine and should be brought to my attention for correction.

Calendar The calendar will be as up to date as possible. Group leaders are responsible for any changes/corrections to the calendar, which will then be transferred to the Reader.

Deb Hoffmaster, editor@RockyReader.com

TOLEDO GEM AND ROCKHOUND CLUB MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2015

1. Meeting started 7: 00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Secretary Report – moved for approval by Tom Marok seconded by Elie Ghanime
3. Treasurer Report – Finance Report will be covered next month since Pete is out of town. Bonnie Wheeler moved to hold the finance report and seconded by Amy Shufeldt
4. Club Auction to follow the business meeting
5. Old Business – None to report
6. New Business
 - ▶ In December we will have a potluck dinner and we request members to bring a child's unwrapped gift for Lucas County Children Services. See above for food to bring.
 - ▶ Two positions are left open - President and Vice President. Deb Hoffmaster volunteered to be the Rocky Reader Editor and thanks to Lyn Kalinoski for the years she was editor.
 - ▶ Since there are no nominations for president or vice president there was a motion to delay the vote until December by Steve Shimatzki and seconded by Elie Ghanime by suspending the bylaws. Motion passed.
 - ▶ A Board meeting will be scheduled for November 29 at 2pm in the Craft Center where open positions will be discussed.
10. Group Reports
 - a. Gardens: Please call Nikki at 419-536-5592 to volunteer – the next event is Heralding the Holidays
 - b. Gemcrafters: A cabochon of the month is planned and members can purchase for a minimum fee. See the Rocky Reader for details.
 - c. Faceteers: Contact Elie if you have interest in a class
 - d. Metalcrafters: Contact Deb Hoffmaster if you want to meet
 - e. Beaders: November is the last class and then probable break for the winter
 - f. Extreme Beaders: See Rocky Reader for dates
 - g. Juniors: regular meeting scheduled. No meeting in December
 - h. Sunshine: No news to report
11. Membership: 33 members and 1 juniors. Some Membership dues are unpaid - \$16.10 single, \$21.45 family
12. Field Trips: none planned
13. RockyReader: - Email info to Deb Hoffmaster by Monday following the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm with the Club Auction following.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Mayers, Club Secretary

Thelma Postlewaite's Family News -

December Birthdays

Tina Kelsey	4	J T Senghas	17
Lyn Kalinoski	8	Christopher Goeloe	20
Monica Henry	9	Joe Motter	29
Peggy Autry	9	Natalie Hill	??
Elie Ghanime	12	(Natalie's not telling!)	

GARDEN NEWS

Heralding the Holidays is Friday, December 4, 5pm - 9pm; Saturday, December 5, 10am - 4pm and Sunday, December 6, 12pm - 4pm. It is a FREE family-friendly holiday experience at the Toledo Botanical Garden. It features:

- FREE horse-drawn carriage rides on Friday
- Hands-on activities for children
- Strolling carolers
- Arts, crafts and herbs available for purchase
- Opportunity to blow your own glass ornament for purchase
- And a special visitor from the North Pole taking wish requests with good behavior

FACETEERS

The Faceteers are not currently meeting. Contact Elie Ghanime 419-450-0160, eghanime@buckeye-express.com for more information

FIELD TRIPS

Contact Harold Burleson hburle@msn.com to be informed of future field trips. Many quarries now require up to date Mine Safety training for admission.

BEADERS

The Beaders are off for the winter months. If you are interested in beading, contact Nancy Grove nancy7536@att.net for more information.

EXTREME BEADERS

The Extreme Beaders meet on Tuesdays beginning at 9AM. Participants must be able to work independently on their own projects. If you would like to join, but need instruction, contact Kathy Petersen mlrlyt@AOL.com for more information.

GEMCRAFTERS

The Gemcrafters meet on Wednesdays beginning at 6:30 PM and Thursdays beginning at 12:00 PM. (Closed every third Wednesday due to the club meeting). If you are interested in lapidary and wish to register for training please contact Bonnie Wheeler at b86fiero@buckeye-express.com or Natalie Hill at natalie.hill.designs@gmail.com for more information.

The Cabochon Of The Month series kicked off in November with the beautiful Willow Creek Jasper. Our members have created some outstanding finished cabs and are busy incorporating them into jewelry just in time for holiday gift giving. The Cabochon Of The Month material for December will be

**Crystals...Minerals
Cutting Stock.....Tools
New and Used
Equipment**

Buying Used Equipment
and Mineral Collections



R & E Rocks

654 Culley Rd

Holland, OH 43528

Owned and Operated by
Ed and Ruby Reynolds,
Club members

By Appointment Only:

419-382-1089 or 419-340-8801



a fine Porcelain Jasper. It will be offered beginning December 1 to Gem Crafter trained members at \$3 per slab with a limit of one slab per member.

Many group members took advantage of our newly stocked findings supply to acquire the necessary components to finish a necklace, bracelet, pin or bolo tie. These findings are intended to assist group members in completing personal projects only. If you are creating to sell we will be happy to provide information on available retail and wholesale suppliers.

THANK YOU JOE MOTTER!! We greatly appreciate your time and artistic talents in teaching club members the Decorative Viking Style Wire Wrapping. A fun time was had by all!

Our next educational class will be basic Creative Wire Wrapping with instructor Elie Ghanime. Don't miss this one! Watch your email for date and time.

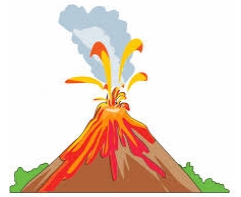
Coming soon ---- A FINDINGS SWAP MEET!

Happy Holidays To All, Your Gemcrafter Moderators, Bonnie Wheeler, Natalie Hill, Greg Feight, Chet King

JUNIORS

The Juniors group meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 1PM. Juniors ages 6 to 18, accompanied by a parent or guardian are welcome. For more information contact Steve Shimatzki sjs132@accesstoledo.com.

December's Juniors is unfortunately canceled because of Christmas. However in January we will be BUILDING VOLCANOES. Don't miss it!



METALCRAFTERS

The metalcrafters meet by appointment on the first and third Sundays at 1:30 and the second and fourth Thursdays at 6:30. December meetings will be on the 10th and 20th. We will not meet on the 6th or 24th. Sunday meetings are from 1:30-3:30. To confirm your attendance at a Sunday meeting, e-mail or call Deb Hoffmaster 24 hours in advance. Thursday meetings are from 6:30-8:30. Thursday meetings do not have skill instruction and participants must have their own materials and be able to work independently. To confirm your attendance at a Thursday meeting e-mail or call Kathy Petersen or Shirley Stieb 24 hours in advance. Please note: if you have not confirmed your attendance, you may show up and have no one there. Participants must pay the \$2.00 session fee, and wear long pants and sturdy shoes (no sandals).

We are a collaborative group. We expect that members have their own materials and sufficient experience to work independently. If you are new to silver work, please register for one of the beginning pendant classes. If you are new to the group but have previous experience please e-mail me (debhoffmaster@gmail.com) to arrange orientation during a scheduled meeting. For more information contact Deb Hoffmaster moderator, debhoffmaster@gmail.com

Coming Events from Chetty King's Flyer Table

Ho Ho Ho Party: Dec. 2nd at 6:30 in the craft center. Bring a dish to pass

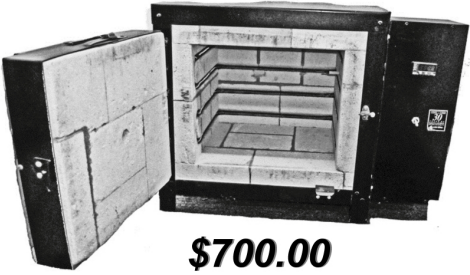
Dec 4-6: Eons Expos, LLLP, NJ Convention & Expo Center; 97 Sunfield Avenue Edison, New Jersey; Fri. 5 pm-9 pm, Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-6 pm; Admission is \$5; Free parking.

www.Eons-Expos.com

Dec 12-13: Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Williamson County AgExpoPark; 4215 Long Lane Franklin, Tennessee Sat. 9 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Admission is \$4.00, Students are \$1.00, Children are Free! www.MTGMS.org/show.htm

For more shows, see:

<http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>



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OREGON PETRIFIED WOOD By Sky Paxton

Reprinted from The Carmel Valley PROSPECTOR! November 2015
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Just outside of Sweet Home, Oregon is a ranch containing more than 65 identified species of petrified wood. The hills around Sweet Home are also known as the source for famous Holly Blue agate. So the ranch is named Holleywood Ranch as a way of linking the two types of stone found in the area. Holleywood ranch is a fee dig ranch with the owners being very responsive to rockhounds. They routinely use tractors to expose new stone although I don't know why they need to, this site is almost nothing except petrified wood. After awhile I tried looking for a rock that was not wood and only found one small piece.

The big deal about this site is the number of different species all located in one place. 65 identified

species is just the tip of the tree. Hollywood ranch has been extensively studied by paleobotanists since the 1960's identifying the 65 known species, yet as many as 100 different species still remain nameless. The generally accepted theory is that this ranch was once a shoreline of an ancient ocean inlet that collected driftwood from all over the world. The few pieces I did decide to bring home an add to my pile do look somewhat like driftwood pieces.

The wood pieces are somewhat whole showing well defined wood grain yet with smooth ends and interesting twists like we see today in driftwood. The difference is they are very agatized and solid making them great lapidary material. The outside and inward around all the cracks is bleached in color like you would expect driftwood to be with the interior still showing color and wood cell replacements. The contrasting colors are white or light tan to coal black. There are pieces with red and orange and even some small green markings. The most predominant colors being the shades of brown/black to white/tan.

The ranch charges a modest \$1.50 a pound for anything you want to call your own. We stopped by while they are in transition to a new building and opening a Petrified Wood museum so I didn't get to see the examples of the 65 known species. Their website is <http://holleywoodranch.com/dig-it/>

Studio, Gallery Space: Big Fab Lab Maker Space opens in Bowling Green - Seeking members

What is it? ?big Fab Lab is an open-access workshop--also known as a "Maker Space"--that provides a membership community with 24/7 access to powerful tools (access to a laser, C&C router, a full wood shop, ceramics studio, makerbots and more) and the knowledge to use them. Additionally, they offer rentable studio space for artists or others who want a place to work on their creations.

How do I join?? To use the facilities and tools at Big Fab Lab, one can become a member. Membership is \$39 per month, plus specific tool and material charges. Students, military, and seniors only pay \$29 per month. Just call or visit to apply for a membership.

Start making today! www.BigFabLab.com info@bigfablab.com Phone: 419-971-4244
1234 N Main St, Suite D, Bowling Green, OH 43402

From: <http://theartscommission.org/company-blog/calls-for-artists#Calls3>

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER, BUT THEY'RE ALSO QUITE COMMON

Throughout history, diamonds have been among the most sought after and valuable gems around. Over the past eighty some years in particular, diamonds have become exceptionally valuable, and a

symbol of love, gracing wedding and engagement rings. Turns out, however, that diamonds might not be all that rare.

Johns Hopkins geochemist Dimitri A. Sverjensky and doctoral candidate Fang Huang completed the study. Using chemical models, the two discovered that diamonds can form much more easily in nature than previously expected.

Up until now, scientists believed that the oxidation of methane and other complex processes were necessary to form diamonds. The new research suggests, however, that water could produce diamonds.

Researchers aren't exactly sure how many diamonds are being made, as diamond formation occurs deep in the mantle, an estimated 90 to 120 miles below the surface of the crust. At this depth, temperatures are believed to be about 1,650 to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Diamonds are now the gem of choice for wedding and engagement rings, and this is the result of a very clever marketing campaign by De Beers, an international diamond cartel. During the Great Depression diamond prices had collapsed, so De Beers launched a marketing campaign to argue that diamonds were a symbol of everlasting love.

In the 1940's, this culminated with the slogan "diamonds are forever". Truly, diamonds are one of the most chemically stable gemstones around, and are nearly indestructible.

Besides this sturdy nature, De Beers and other companies have also long argued that diamonds are rare. Turns out the latter claim might not be true, at least if current study by researchers at John's Hopkins University proves to be correct.

De Beers has long been accused of monopolizing diamonds so that it can inflate diamond prices. Since prices are set by supply and demand, if De Beers is able to restrict the supply of diamonds artificially, it would inflate prices.

While such accusations are far from proven, the evidence provided by the researchers at Johns Hopkins does suggest that the number of diamonds being created inside the Earth is quite high. How many of those diamonds make their way to the surface remains unknown.

Submitted by Steve Shimatzki. From:

www.natureworldreport.com/2015/11/diamonds-are-forever-but-theyre-also-quite-common/

Frequent Flyer Miles

Last week, "Reclining Nude" by Amedeo Modigliani sold for \$170 million at an art auction, a debt apparently settled using an American Express card. As a result, the buyer, Liu Yiqian, will obtain 422 million American Express points, or roughly 28 million frequent flyer miles!!

From The Guild, E-Limited Edition newsletter, November 2015

State to finder of a big Petoskey rock: Let's talk By Daniel Bethencourt Detroit Free Press 9/12/2015

Three days after a Michigan man claimed that he hauled a 93 pound Petoskey stone out of Lake Michigan, officials are still trying to reach him to figure out whether he violated any laws. "We just want to talk to him," Ed Golder with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources said Friday afternoon. The bizarre situation started more than a week ago, when Tim O'Brien of Copemish near Traverse City, told the Grand Rapids Press that he found the giant Petoskey stone near Northport in a few feet of water in Lake Michigan a few days ago. He sent along photos of himself with the stone and said that it took multiple tries to pry it out and get it back to his truck. He also described the stone as "a conversation piece." But it turns out that Michigan law prohibits removing more than 25 pounds of rocks or minerals per year from state-owned lands, including Great Lakes bottom lands. Violation could bring a civil fine up to \$500. O'Brien could not be reached for comment. Golder added that officials did not plan to take the rock and were not sure that he broke any law. But he also said the rock could have a place at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing and called it a "fairly unusual find." The stone comes from a type of fossilized coral that was very common in the Great Lakes area more than

300 million years ago. Back then Michigan was closer to the equator and covered in warm shallow seas

"These were very beautiful places to be at that time," said Matthew Linke, whose official title is planetarium manager at the University of Michigan of Natural History. But time changed, so did the ocean levels, and the coral reefs were buried and turned into fossils. Today, Petoskey stones can be found not just in Michigan, but in many states bordering the Great Lakes, and in Europe and Asia as well. There are quarries in Michigan where you could find sections of Petoskey stone that stretch for more than one hundred feet. Linke called the recent find impressive, but added that from his perspective, "it's another big chunk. I've seen bigger ones." One expert who can also make those claims is John Lindsay, president of Huron Hills Lapidary and Mineral Society. Lindsay claims he has seen a Petoskey stone that measured 5 feet across by 4 feet tall. The fossil itself isn't rare, but the rare part is finding it in a stone that has been molded to a rough sphere by the movement of glaciers, he said. Lindsay once found and kept a 150 pound Petoskey stone in a wall of a quarry in Indiana. He spent three days wrenching it out. "It was absolutely fabulous," he said. But he added of the 93-pound stone, "If someone wanted one that large, he could find one." When asked whether he was surprised by the sudden fame of O'Brien and his substantially smaller Petoskey stone, he said, "More power to him." Reprinted from the Rockpile, Dec 2015

In The News: From Sigma Xi Smartbrief

Tooth study suggests Eurasian mammoth came to North America 1.5M years ago

A new analysis of mammoth teeth suggests it was the more evolved Eurasian steppe mammoth that came to North America about 1.5 million years ago and not its warm-climate ancestor *Mammuthus meridionalis*. Researchers say the Eurasian steppe mammoth may even be the same species as North America's Columbian mammoth, which walked the area during the last ice age. Findings were published in Science.

Stone Age people may have dined on honey, study suggests

Ancient farmers may have used honey as far back as 9,000 years ago, a study in Nature reports. Beeswax residue has been detected in shards of pots found throughout ancient Europe, suggesting they once may have held honey. Researchers say that, in addition to honey, Stone Age people could have used beeswax in cooking, cosmetics and fuel.

December Puzzle: Arrange these three-letter segments to spell the nine-letter names of common minerals

						I	T	E
						O	N	E
						I	T	E
						E	S	E
						O	N	E
						I	T	E

EST	IAL
MOO	PHE
MAN	LIM
EUD	NST
NAK	CEL
EST	GAN

December

2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Gemcrafter 6:30 HOHO party	3 Gemcrafters 12 noon	4 Heralding the Holidays 5-9	5 Heralding the Holidays 10-5
6 Heralding the Holidays 10-5 No metalcrafters	7	8 Extreme beaders 9AM No Faceteers	9 Gemcrafter 6:30PM	10 Gemcrafters 12 noon Metalcrafters 6:30	11	12
13	14	15 Extreme beaders 9AM	16 Club meeting - potluck 6PM	17 Gemcrafters 12 noon	18	19
20 Metalcrafters 1:30	21 No beaders	22 Extreme beaders 9AM No faceteers	23 Gemcrafter 6:30PM	24 Gemcrafters 12 noon No metalcrafters	25	26
27 No Juniors meeting	28	29 Extreme beaders 9AM	30 Gemcrafter 6:30PM	31 Gemcrafters 12 noon		