

Rocky Reader

<http://www.rockyreader.com>

The Monthly Newsletter of the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club



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February 2015

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President's Message

Hello all. During our January meeting we were treated to a presentation by Jenna Reindel, a student at Bowling Green State University. Her presentation was on her recent trip to Iceland where she has chosen to study volcanology. Jenna is basing her undergraduate thesis on the Icelandic volcano Herðubreið. She also passed along a link to a great screencast by Michael Collier that shows some highlights of their trip with some beautiful photography of Iceland. Take a look!
<http://www.screencast.com/t/GMcogEpubv>

There is a board meeting scheduled for February 12 at 5:30PM at the Craft Center. We will discuss the annual budget, among other things. If anyone has anything significant that they know should be accounted for that is not usually, please email or call me to discuss.

Steve and I are working on a new look for the website and want it to include pictures of club members work. If anyone has high quality pictures of finished work, collected specimens, or of stones you have cut, please let me know. I would like to get as many as I can so that we can swap them out occasionally to keep the website fresh. You can email them to me or bring them to the next meeting if there are a lot and you have them on disc.

Be well!

Tonia Wallace (President)

This month officially begins with a new Rocky Reader feature. I previewed this without an announcement last month, now it's official. Announcing a new page: The Gallery which will feature's member's work, interesting mineral specimens and gems. If you'd like to submit pictures for possible use, please send them as a jpg attachment (not embedded) to editor @rockyreader.com. Pictures should not be overly large and should not have cluttered backgrounds. For an example of size, resolution and background, see the pictures from Extreme Beaders. No prices permitted.. Pictures submitted must be your own work or gem/mineral specimens you own. Editor's decision on what is published is final. Publication on a space available basis.

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A big thank you to Shirley Stieb who stepped in and made sure there were refreshments for the January meeting. Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by Deb Hoffmaster and Linda McConahey.

Meeting: FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM IS THE METALCRAFTER'S SILENT AUCTION

Every February the metalcrafters have a silent auction. If you have never done this before - here is the protocol:

If you are bringing a donation: PLEASE Fill out a silent auction slip for each donation. These are available in the metalcrafter studio, at the meeting and by e-mail request sent to Debhoffmaster@gmail.com. The form asks you to list your name as the donor, and to set a minimum price and minimum bid raise for your donation (we recommend that the bid raise be 5% of the minimum price, for example if the minimum bid is \$10, a bid raise of 5% is 50 cents). Price things at what you think they are worth. **If the item does not sell, we will return it to you**.

If you wish to purchase an item that is on display: First: Look at the bid sheet and note the MINIMUM BID and any other bids that have been made. Next write your name and your bid (this must be MORE than the highest of the minimum bid and the preceding bid) on the bid sheet. If you really, really want something, go back frequently to up your bid OR bid extravagantly. We will announce the end of bidding (7:30). If you have the highest bid, at the end, take your items to Debby Hoffmaster or Jim Leslie to be tallied. They will add up all your purchases and send you off to Luanne to pay. This removes some of the burden from Luanne and hastens the process.

Please note: if you have bid less than the minimum bid, you will be charged the minimum. Also, if you have bid less than the previous bids, the item will be given to the person whose bid was highest even if your bid is the last one on the sheet.

The metalcrafter auction finances our tool purchases and pays for invited workshops (most recently, Ronda Coryell). We accept donations of metals, tools, jewelry, gemstones, cabochons, beads, and other jewelry components for this auction

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Meeting Minutes

Date: January 21, 2015

General Meeting Agenda Meeting started 7:05 pm with Pledge of Allegiance

Tonight's program was provided by Jenna Reindel talk on "Eruptive History of Herðubreið Volcano, Iceland". It was followed by the presentation of checks to John Farver (BG) and Tim Fisher (UT) \$675 to each school. The great donations resulted from the Scholarship Raffle held during the annual show last September at Stranahan.

Secretary's Report – moved for approval by Deb Hoffmaster and seconded by Amy Shufeldt

Treasurer's Report – Finance Report moved for approval by Steve Shimatzki and seconded by Deb Hoffmaster

Old Business Discussion regarding key access to the Craft Center including codes for specific access. Will be an item for a future Board meeting February 12 at 5:30 pm

New Business – no new business reported

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Group Reports

Gardens: Next is the seed and bulb swap at Woodward High School in Feb or March – if members want to help with seed separation or assist the event, call the Gardens to volunteer

Gemcrafters: See Rocky Reader for dates – do not leave food in the Craft Center garbage

Faceteers: Future dates will be emailed

Metalcrafters: See Rocky Reader for dates – a silent auction will be held next month

Beaders: Weather permitting will start back in February

Extreme Beaders: See Rocky Reader for dates-normally every Tuesday

Juniors: Review crystals grown at home

Sunshine: No news this month

Membership: 24 members, including one new member

Field Trips: None scheduled during winter

Rocky Reader: (Lyn) - Email info to Lyn by Monday following the meeting.

February meeting : Metalcrafters silent auction-please bring items to auction including the minimum bid

The meeting concluded at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Mayers, Secretary



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BEADERS

Monthly Beaders will resume in February if weather permits.

EXTREME BEADERS

Extreme Beaders continue to meet on the weekly schedule, Tuesdays, 9-5, at the Craft Center. Extreme Beaders attendees should be able to work independently and have their own projects, materials and supplies. New attendees interested in Bead Embroidery should contact Shirley Stieb or Kathy Petersen for a materials list, and to schedule initial instruction, if necessary. Extreme Beaders are often working on Thursday afternoons, during Open Gemcrafter days. If interested in beading or instruction during these times, check with Shirley Stieb or Kathy Petersen to verify that beaders will be working that week.

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FACETEERS

Faceteers have regular meetings the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the craft center. Please contact Elie if you have questions. There will be a faceting class in March; for further information, contact Elie.

GEMCRAFTERS

Gemcrafters are actively collecting items for our April auction and sale. Proceeds will be earmarked for the purchase of a sphere making machine. Thanks to some very generous club members we already have some rocks, slabs, specimens, faceted stones, beads, findings, wire, cords, equipment and even a couple of new toys that may be of interest to our junior members. We need your help to meet our \$2,000 goal. We will accept donations Wednesday evenings or Thursday afternoons at the craft center. Everything and anything is welcome as long as we don't have to feed it. Those sphere making machines are not cheap

Gentle Reminder: Please help keep our members healthy. If you are ill, have a cough, elevated temperature or other communicable health issue please don't bring it to the craft center. We recommend that everyone working in the craft center make ample use of the hand sanitizer provided in the restroom. Thank you!

Bonnie Wheeler, Moderator

METALCRAFTERS

CLASSES

The following schedule is a listing of upcoming classes. To enroll, please send fees to the instructor three weeks prior to the class.

March 7 & 8 10AM. Precious metal Clay. (3 openings). Instructor Debby Hoffmaster. Fee of \$100 to be sent to Debby Hoffmaster and RECEIVED (not postmarked) by February 14. Each participant will receive 25g of PMC3. The focus of the class will be on making and kiln firing flat, three dimensional and hollow pieces (one of each). Any remaining clay may be used to construct additional pieces .

March 21 10AM. Basic pendant. (5 openings). Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. Fee of \$10 to be sent to Debby Hoffmaster and RECEIVED (not postmarked) by March 7. This is the required introductory class for the metalcrafter group. It teaches the fabrication of a bezel set pendant. All materials and tools are provided.

April 18, 2015 10AM. Enameling with underglaze (1 opening). Instructor Harriet Nearing. Fee of \$50 to be sent to Debby Hoffmaster and RECEIVED (not postmarked) by March 28. This is an advanced class. Participants must have had previous enameling experience. Students will make a pendant by first chasing a design, then applying liquid underglaze onto the chased lines. A transparent enamel is then sifted onto the dried underglaze and the piece is fired. All materials and tools are provided.

May 9, 10AM. Spoon jewelry (5 openings). Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. Fee of \$35 to be sent to Debby Hoffmaster and RECEIVED (not postmarked) by April 25. Participants in the class will be provided with one sterling silver demitasse spoon and two plated utensils from which it is possible to form a ring, bracelet and pendant.

METALCRAFTER MEETINGS

Weather permitting, the Metalcrafters will meet February 1, 12, 15 and 26. Sunday meetings are from 1:30 - 3:30 and Thursday meetings are from 6:30-8:30. Please check your e-mail for any cancellations. I will post these no later than one hour before the scheduled start time of the meeting. Notices go out to those receiving metalcrafter e-mails. If you are not currently getting these e-mails, please let me know.

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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 the basic pendant class on March 21. 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.

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.

Third Sunday Project - Third Sunday Project - The February third Sunday project will be using the disc cutter and rolling mill to make a three color earring. Participants interested in this project should pre-register with me (debhoffmaster@gmail.com) in advance. White and yellow brass and copper will be provided or you may bring your own metals. Participants must pay the \$2.00 session fee, and wear long pants and sturdy shoes (no sandals). Please remember, the third Sunday projects are open to any club member.

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Thelma Postlewaite's Family News February Birthdays:

1	Tonia Wallace Daniel Simpson
2	Michael Pasternak
5	Jayne Romes
10	Karren Haynes Ed Reynolds
11	Marcia Pasternak
12	Ron Miller
13	Christine Loar
16	Scheran Newell
17	Katharine Smarkel
18	Don Sturtz Jeff Wheeler
19	Rita Holcomb
22	Cindy Madanski
25	Betty Jones John Kosakowski

Don't forget to check the expiration date on your driver's license.

RockyReader: deadline is Monday after the meeting for all material. Please send any news, changes to classes or announcements to editor@rockyreader.com.

Events From Chetty King's Table:

February 20-22—Indianapolis, IN: Annual show; Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indiana State Museum; 650 W. Washington St.; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4; adults \$12, seniors \$10, children \$7; dealers, regional clubs, adult and kids' activities; contact Peggy Fisherkeller, 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-7172; e-mail: pfisherkeller@indianamuseum.org; Web site: www.indianamuseum.org

February 28 Seed Swap sponsored by TBG Woodward HS 12:00-3:00

March 6-8—Richmond, IN: Annual show; Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Wayne County Fairgrounds; 861 N. Salisbury Rd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$1, children (under 7) and Scouts and leaders in uniform free; jewelry, minerals, fossils, displays, demonstrators, silent auction, children's activities; contact John LaMont, 1271 Fairfield Ave., Brookville, IN 47012, (765) 647-4894 or (937) 339-1966

March 20-22—Jackson, MI: Annual show; Michigan Gem & Mineral Society, Jackson County Fairgrounds - American 1 Event Center; 200 W. Ganson; Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$4, seniors \$2, students \$1, children (under 5) free; kids' activities, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry, lapidary supplies, demonstrators, exhibits, displays, silent auctions, door prizes, raffle; contact Sally Hoskin, (517) 522-3396; e-mail: saltoosal2@yahoo.com; Web site: mgmsrockclub.com

Bench Tips by Brad Smith

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon
<http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>

Testing For Silver

With the price of silver as high as it is, jewelry people need to keep their scrap metals sorted. Part of that process is identifying some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox.

Silver testing solutions can be used to distinguish high silver content alloys like Fine (.999), Sterling (.925) and Coin (.900) from alloys that have the same appearance but no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41 for \$3. With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. Procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I get when testing various materials:

Fine silver	Red/Orange
Sterling silver	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper	Dark red changing to gray
Brass	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel	Gray-green
Copper	Yellow changing to blue
Steel	Black
Stainless Steel	No color change

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Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.

Do not get any testing solution on your skin.

Always have a solution of baking soda and water handy to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you're done.

Tapered Reamers

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. It's not a tool you'll use everyday, but they're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.

Annual World-wide Rock Tumbling Contest

The Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society in Oroville, CA invites you to take part in the sixth annual Worldwide Rock Tumbling Contest. This year, the rough rock will be obsidian which the club collected in Northern California and is a variety of colors.

CASH PRIZES AWARDED!!!

First place \$250.00

Second Place \$100.00

Third Place \$50.00

•

3 lbs. of rough Obsidian will be shipped to you when application and check are approved

•

Rough rock will be shipped beginning in early January 2015

•

Applications are accepted through June 1, 2015

•

Return 5 of your best tumbled rocks by August 15, 2015 (you get to keep the rest of the rock!)

Judging will occur in September and winners will have their rocks on display at the club's annual show.

Learn more about the Chico Rock and Mineral Show in September 2015.

Entry fee this year is \$30.00 for continental US residents. This includes shipping the material to you. Outside the USA will be \$30.00 plus any additional shipping charges.

For More Information:

Website: www.FeatherRiverRocks.org, Phone: 530-533-2968, Address: Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society, PO Box 2645, Oroville, CA 95965 Email: Tumbling@FeatherRiverRocks.org

Fool's Gold Preserves Some of Earth's Oldest Fossils

by Stephanie Pappas, Live Science Contributor | December 18, 2014

Fool's gold helps explain why many fossils of soft-bodied animals that lived more than 540 million years ago still survive, a new study finds.

The bacterial breakdown of ancient, wormlike animals after their deaths led to the formation of [pyrite](#), the shiny, yellow mineral sometimes mistaken for gold. This pyrite helped preserve the fossils in three dimensions, according to research published Wednesday (Dec. 17) in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Understanding this strange process is important, said study researcher James Schiffbauer, a paleobiologist at the University of Missouri, because the process of pyrite mineralization could create features that, misleadingly, look like the original biology of the animal. [[Extreme Life on Earth: 8 Bizarre Creatures](#)]

"What we're trying to do is, look at the biological signal and subtract the geological noise," Schiffbauer said.

Tube animals

At the Gaojiashan fossil site in China, the tubelike fossils of an animal known as *Conotubus hemiannulatus* are common discoveries. The creature dates back to about 550 million to 542 million years ago.

"We actually don't have any fossil evidence of what that animal was," Schiffbauer said. "Looking at the tube, we can say it's probably wormlike or maybe sea-anemone-like."

In many ways, though, it's a miracle that even the fossil tube survives. Early animals like *C. hemiannulatus* did not have [mineralized bones](#) like dinosaurs or other later animals, whose fossilized skeletons reveal much about the animals' anatomies. As such, the fossilization process of soft-tissue animals is poorly understood, Schiffbauer said.

He and his colleagues studied *C. hemiannulatus* fossils, drawing on the observation that many are surrounded by shiny pyrite. They measured the size of the pyrite crystals and also the isotopes of [sulfur](#) in the pyrite, which is made of iron and sulfur. Isotopes are atoms of an element that have varying numbers of neutrons in the nucleus.

These measurements revealed that the pyrite mineralization of the tubes started outside, where the crystals were smallest, and worked its way in. The isotopic fingerprints of the sulfur revealed that bacteria were responsible, at least at first.

Bacteria and fossilization

From the chemistry, the researchers pieced together the process as well as they could. It worked like this: First, the animals were rapidly buried, probably by a big event like a storm that brought a mass of sediment to their seafloor environment. This sudden burial prevented oxygen-loving aerobic [bacteria](#) from decomposing the bodies too rapidly to allow for fossilization.

Below the surface, though, lived sulfur-breathing bacteria that found the soft organisms to be an appealing feast. Fueled by the carbon in the wormy animals, these bacteria converted sulfate from the seawater into hydrosulfide. That hydrosulfide reacted with free iron in the water, which kick-started the formation of pyrite at the edges of the tubes. This process probably happened quickly, perhaps within 12 to 800 years, the researchers reported.

Most likely, Schiffbauer said, the pyritization process continued without the assistance of bacteria as the fossils were buried further.

The explanation helps to solve the mystery of why about 80 percent of the fossils in the Gaojiashan formation are preserved in three dimensions, with fool's gold around them, while others are preserved in two dimensions in a second process called carbonaceous compression. It seems that, as long as sediments didn't continue to

bury the fossils too quickly, the pyrite process could continue. If the fossils buried faster, the compression process took over, creating [pancake-flat fossils](#) instead of fossils in three dimensions.

Junior's Corner

Acrostic Jewelry by Lyn Kalinoski

What is acrostic jewelry? Simply defined it is jewelry where gemstones are used in the design to spell out a name or message. An example of a simple acrostic or puzzle is a ring with the following gems: Diamond, Emerald Amethyst and Ruby. The first letters of the gems spell out the message. Popular sentiments were: Hope, Regards, Dear, and Adore. French acrostic designs might spell out j'adore, je t'aime and other sentiments.

Acrostic jewelry first became popular in France when French jeweler Jean Baptist Mellerio made special pieces for Napoleon Bonaparte and his wife Josephine. Yes the emperor of France liked and wore acrostic jewelry, particularly bracelets.. Bracelets, necklaces, rings and brooches were all popular examples of acrostic pieces. Soon, society in England adopted the craze for hidden messages and secret meanings in gifts of jewelry.

The heyday of acrostic jewelry was the Victorian period (1837-1901) when puzzles of all types were popular, and pieces from that period sometimes may be found in antique shops or at estate sales.. In recent years, some modern jewelry designers have used acrostic designs in their work. One famous mystery writer has even used acrostic jewelry in a novel as part of the plot.

Spelling out names was difficult. There weren't as many gemstones known, so for some letters in common names designers often had to improvise. Jewelers sometimes used French names or the colored variant of a stone for a letter. Symbols were also sometimes used to fill in the puzzles. Today's designers sometimes use just the color of the stone as the first letter but that practice wasn't done in Victorian times. The use of acrostic jewelry to show political beliefs was also popular in Victorian England.

Complicated patterns with several rings or strands that intertwine and form sentences or have a flower shape are uncommon and expensive. Depending upon the stones and metal used, an antique acrostic piece might run as little as a \$600 and in some cases as much as \$5000.

One famous mystery writer even used acrostic jewelry in a novel as part of the plot.

You can find photos of different types of acrostic jewelry at many websites, especially those which specialize in Victorian jewelry.

Juniors' Challenge:

Try making a gemstone acrostic on paper for your own name and one with a sentiment Label which precious or semi-precious stones you would use in your design.

What would you use for the Y in Mary or B in Barbara? What gemstones would you use to spell out L-O-V-E or A-D-M-I-R-E

The Gallery : work by Linda Markowiak (top) and Kathy Peterson(bottom)



**** Flash! Newsletter page left blank! ****

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I hope you get the idea... This is a CLUB newsletter and we shouldn't all pressure Lyn Kalinoski, our dear newsletter editor, to track down and fill EVERY crack and crevice of the newsletter without any membership input. I'm sure Lyn would love to print what you want in spaces such as this so that she doesn't have blank spaces that I would find when I try and print out the newsletter. It needs to be an even number of pages, and your article, picture, process, poem, etc would of filled this space nicely! Please, help Lyn by submitting your great newsletter items to:

editor@rockyreader.com

A message from your friendly newsletter printer.

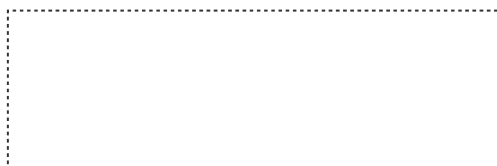
PS... Come to the February meeting for the Metalcrafters silent auction! :)

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February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
1 Metalcrafters 1:30pm	2	3 Extreme Beaders 9am	4 Gemcrafters 6:30-9pm	5 Gemcrafters 12pm	6	7
8	9	10 Extreme Beaders 9am Faceteers 7pm	11 Gemcrafters 6:30-9pm	12 Gemcrafters 12pm Metalcrafters 6:30 pm	13	14
15 Metalcrafters 1:30pm Third Sunday Project	16 Beaders 6:30pm (weather permitting)	17 Extreme Beaders 9am	18 Meeting Metalcrafters auction 7pm	19 Gemcrafters 12pm	20	21
22 Juniors 1:30pm	23	24 Extreme Beaders 9am Faceteers 7pm	25 Gemcrafters 6:30-9pm	26 Gemcrafters 12pm Metalcrafters 6:30 pm	27	28

Group meetings and classes at the clubhouse are for members only. Our club meetings are at the TBG Crosby Conference center, 5403 Elmer Dr. Toledo and are open to the public on the third Wednesday of every month. To learn more about our club, visit us during our Open House held every May and November.




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