



Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

Volume 55, Issue 1

January, 2017

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January Program: Scholarship Checks distributed with a short program. Seven PM January 18 in the conference Center

Letters from the President

Dear Club-members,

I want to thank you for letting me be your club President. As I have mentioned before, I wish for this club to get back to where it belongs. A club that shares and educates its members and the public in a fun and friendly way. I would like to see all club members take part in the various activities we are a part of and offer. I would also like for all of you to feel free to come to me with your ideas, concerns and complaints concerning the club. After all, this is a club in which you belong, and your voice should be heard. I can be reached at the following:

Catherine Clevenz
E-mail: clevenz@gmail.com
PH: 419-340-5276
Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club,
5403 Elmer Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43615

I strongly encourage all club members come to the January meeting on the 18th, weather permitting. There will be several new topics to discuss as well as wrapping up old business. Hope to see you at the meeting!

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Board Meeting December 16, 2016

Attendees: Deb Hoffmaster, Tonia Wallace, Harold Burleson, Elie Ghanime, Lynn and Kathy Peterson, Cathy Clevenz (2017 President) and Tom Barnhizer (2017 Vice President)

Meeting started at 4 pm

New Business

Life member discussion – Deb Hoffmaster recommended Steve Shimatzki – Harold Burleson moved to award Steve as a life member and Elie Ghanime seconded and was passed by the board**

· The 2017 Lease and Resident Organization Agreement were discussed and needed to be signed. Motion to sign by Mike Mayers and seconded by Elie Ghanime and was passed by the board

· The 2017 show deposit needed to be paid to reserve the date at the Stanahan. The fact that there is not a show chairman yet is a factor but the deposit is required. Tonia Wallace moved to pay the deposit and Harold Burleson seconded and was passed by the board.

· A show chairman will be needed for the show next year.

Harold suggested a group of show individual area chairs participate in a committee with potentially one or two additional participants. The initial list would include Harold Burleson, Steve Shimatzki, Linda Scharer, Linda McConahey, Tom Marok, Nancy Grove. The committee would potentially identify a show chairman and discuss it with the potential person.

· Rat poison was found in the Gemcrafter room which is a direct disobedience of TBG rules. Since it is not known who placed the poison Deb will explain the issue at the December meeting.

· Two additional requirements are outstanding. One is the need for a Club Secretary (Board member) and a Rocky Reader publisher.

· Discussion of reported event of improper and unacceptable behavior in the Craft Center that included shouting, intimidation and threatening body language. The Board discussed options and will review a BY-LAWS change that will take action when members harass other members. Tonia Wallace moved to look into a by-law change and Deb Hoffmaster seconded the motion. The board approved.

· One additional item discussed was the need for insurance coverage for board members and also fire and theft coverage for equipment at the Craft Center.

The meeting concluded at 5:30 pm

**Steve Shimatzki respectfully refused the honor.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Mayers, Club Secretary

**NO RAT POISON
IN THE
CRAFT CENTER**

Rat poison kills more than rats.



www.raptorsarethesolution.org | A Project of Earth Island Institute



Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club

Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: December 21, 2016

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm
- 2) Secretary Report - – Minutes approved and moved for approval by Tom Marok & seconded Tonia Wallace and passed
- 3) Treasurer Report – Finance Report Approved and moved for approval by Tom Marok & seconded by Jim Hoffmaster and passed
- 4) Old Business
Election of officers:
President – Cathy Clevenz
Vice President – Tom Barnhizer
Treasurer – Michelle Grigore
Secretary- Open position

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DISCOVER

- Rat Poison in Craft Center – as a reminder is forbidden to use per TBG regulations; Deb has signs that Kathy Peterson will post

5) Group Reports:

- Fieldtrips (Harold) –None during the winter and for future outings a current Mine Safety certificate required
- Open House – will be in May
- Beaders - see the Rocky Reader calendar but during January and February normally do not have meetings
- Show – Deposit for 2017 was made with Stranahan – Show chairman needed
- Rocky Reader (Debby) - deadline midnight Monday Dec 26 and a new publisher is needed
- Metalcrafters – see the Rocky Reader calendar
- Sunshine – Pat Motter has had an illness
- Extreme Beaders (Kathy) see the Rocky Reader calendar
- Faceters – email Chet King who will instruct two membes at a time so contact Chet if interested
- Juniors (Steve) – mining chocolate cookies on January 22 and there is a need for a geode cracker
- Membership (Steve) – 33 members and 4 juniors
- Gardens (Chet) – Seed swap in February
- Gemcrafters – regular meetings unless significant snow occurs see the Rocky Reader calendar

- 6) Next Meeting January 17, 2017 – will include acknowledgement of scholarship raffle donations to UT and BG representatives and someone from BG will present a short program
- Adjourn – at 7:30 pm Respectively submitted, Mike Mayers Club Secretary

Thelma Postlewaite's Family News

Stephen	Shimatzki	22
Michael	Slawinski	24
Linda	Markowiak	29

GARDEN NEWS

January 10, 2017 9:30 am - 10:30 am Garden Sprouts:
Winter Animals Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo OH
January 12, 2017 9:30 am - 10:30 am Homegrown
Adventure Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo OH
January 14, 2017 9:30 am - 11:00 am Eggceptional
Juniors Toledo GROWs, Toledo OH

FACETEERS

Elie Ghaimé teaches a full 2-days of faceting theory for up to 12 people at the time, if you are interested please send me an email confirmation to: therockman@gmail.com. Chet King will teach hands-on faceting classes on the SECOND weekend of the month. Chet will take up to two people for this short introduction. Call Chet (419-841-4272) for more information.

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FIELD TRIPS

Contact Harold Burleson hburle@msn.com or haroldburleson12@gmail.com to be informed of future field trips. Many quarries now require up to date Mine Safety training for admission.

BEADERS

The Beaders meet on the third Monday of the Month at 6PM. 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 Gem Crafters 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

JUNIORS

Because of holiday schedules, Juniors will not be meeting the third Sunday in November or December. Instead, our next and last 2016 meeting will be on December 10th at 1pm. Note, It is a SATURDAY! We will be in the room not occupied by the faceters class, in the club's craftcenter.

Any other questions about the juniors, Please ask Steve Shimatzki. E-mail: sis132@gmail.com or call: 567-868-8794

METALCRAFTERS

There will be no metalcrafter meetings in January. Please e-mail Terri Jones, terriljones54@gmail.com for more information.

Coming Events from Chetty King's Flyer Table

January 28, 2017: LINCOLN, NE Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Rock Swap. Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner & Vine Streets, Lincoln. 1-5. Contact Jayne Beer, (402) 466-6628; jbeer6007@aol.com www.lincolngemmineralclub.org

Dinosaur Aged Amber from the Sayreville New Jersey Clay Pits

Excerpte from a post on <http://wheretofindrocks.com/> October 2, 2016 by rocky
Article and Photos by Paul Cyr- eonphader@hotmail.com

New Jersey is no stranger to geological anomaly. Most American rockhounds are familiar with the fluorescent minerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill, and thousands of people from around the globe have graced their collection cabinets with prehnite and other traprock minerals of the Watchung mountains, giving a classic "old school" scientific feel to that shelf of the display. New Jersey has also produced its fair share of paleontological specimens, including many holotypes and species completely new to science. Some of the most interesting finds include gem grade amber with insect inclusions from the Sayreville and Cliffwood Beach areas.

The amber occurs within the lignite peat layer above the deep deposits of the South Amboy Fire Clay. The New Jersey amber is the oldest in the Americas with insect inclusions. From this amber, researchers have discovered several new species of ants, including the oldest ones ever documented, giving new branches in the evolutionary line of ants. According to a paper by the American Museum of Natural History researchers, there are a dozen or more amber producing localities in and around Sayreville, but here we will focus on one. In the 1990's, this locality was monitored by the research department of the AMNH. This study accumulated hundreds of pounds of amber from the Sayreville area, including thousands of specimens with insect inclusions. This was a part of a grand study involving insects included in amber from all over the world. Through this research, many new species of insects were added to taxonomy. Did we mention there is pyrite too? With some careful transport tactics, examples like this can be preserved.

For tools, it is recommended to bring various shovels, picks, small metal rakes, and other digging and scraping apparatus. The porous, but thick and sandy clay behaves differently depending on how wet it is, so you may want to try a few different tools to figure out what works for you. Bring a small plastic vial or jar to keep your amber isolated and safe. If you have nothing else, a nearly empty plastic water bottle with a bit of liquid left in it will keep your amber safe, and clean it up a bit too.

In my experience, most of the pyrite is found on the surface, and appears to form due to the iron and sulfur nucleating in the center of the puddles in the cracked clay mud. The pyrite is mostly unstable, and will quickly lose its luster and begin to disintegrate if special precautions are not taken. The main key is to keep it completely dry. I have heard that putting it in a cool oven can help remove all moisture. I have used 3-in-1 oil to give them a day dip, and take them out to dry. After the pyrite nodule is dry, apply a few layers of spray acrylic. Unfortunately, only a few of my specimens have held up to this point, but they are unique items in our inventory. Some post-pyrite secondaries seem to be found in microcrystals on some of the pyrites as they alter in the weather. Melanterite and jarosite may be present. More research needs to be done on the pyrite alteration at this locality.

The amber can be found in small rounded grains along the surface. If you are looking for the large pieces with insect inclusions, you'll have to dig. The lignite layer is a few feet down (I have heard anywhere from 4 to 9 feet subsurface). Lignite is the precursor to coal, and looks almost exactly like burnt wood. When you get down to this level, you are on the right track. In and around the lignite, you should be able to find evidence of amber soon enough. A nice sized piece with an insect inclusion could be the reward for your hard work.

Plant matter within the amber has been found to be in the juniper family. The lignite peat deposits were probably formed by ancient coastal cedar swamps. The age of this amber has been recorded from 90-92 million years old, in the midst of the Cretaceous Period. Amazing that something so fragile can still exist! This is one of, if not the ONLY locality that produces amber from the same time as the dinosaurs. If Jurassic Park was to happen, we would be thanking New Jersey amber for the DNA. Some of the forms are stalactitic, showing evidence of where it dripped from the tree. It is remarkable to find such objects. Some of the amber is opaque and looks like tan to brown wood opal, with similar luster and conchoidal fracture. The amber ranges from a yellow-hued honey color to a rich cherry red,

and can also be brown. It is transparent when wet or polished, making for a beautiful finished product when worked. One gentleman has told me that if you have a big and stable enough piece, it can be polished with a toothbrush and toothpaste- but it takes quite a while. I have a specimen he polished this way in my personal collection. It is almost an inch tall and has a distinct and complete winged insect inclusion. It is one of the treasures of my New Jersey collection.

Details for how to access the collecting site are available in the full article...see <http://wheretofindrocks.com/> and scroll down to Dinosaur Aged Amber from the Sayreville New Jersey Clay Pits



Insect inclusion in a large polished piece of Sayreville amber collected December 3, 1995. FOV 7mm

Fossils show evidence of some of oldest known organisms

Researchers have found 2.52-billion-year-old fossils in South Africa that show evidence of sulfur bacteria before oxygen became abundant. The bacteria are larger than today's and represent the oldest known organisms that lived in deep water, geologists say.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2016/11/29/Ancient-rocks-offer-glimpse-of-life-before-oxygen/1781480452751/

25M-year-old fossil may help explain how baleen whales became toothless

The question of how the toothed ancestors of baleen whales transitioned to the toothless suction style of feeding the creatures use today may be answered with the help of a 25-million-year-old whale fossil, according to findings published in the Memoirs of Museum Victoria. The fossil's teeth show a kind of wear associated with rapid retraction, a kind of suction similar to drinking something from a straw, researchers say.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2016/1130/How-did-baleen-whale-ancestors-lose-their-teeth>

Sahara became desert after rain belt shifted

The Sahara became a desert after a tropical rain belt there moved northward to the Mediterranean about 6,000 years ago, a study shows. Researchers from Texas A&M University and Yale University built a model to show how Holocene Era rain patterns, which drenched what is now the Sahara Desert, compare with today's patterns.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2016/11/30/How-did-the-Sahara-Desert-get-so-dry/1221480539480/

First smelting attempts by Neolithic humans polluted Jordan river

An ancient river in the Wadi Faynan area of Jordan was polluted about 7,000 years ago by Neolithic humans in their first attempts at smelting, according to findings published in Science of the Total Environment. "These populations were experimenting with fire, experimenting with pottery and experimenting with copper ores, and all three of these components are part of the early production of copper metals from ores," said Russell Adams, a study author.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/polluted-river-southern-jordan-smelting-copper-waterloo-1.3882242>

L.A. subway workers find mammoth fossils as they dig extension

A portion of mammoth tusk and a skull and tusks of either a younger mammoth or mastodon have been found by workers digging a subway system extension in Los Angeles. The fossils, believed to be from an ice age, were found near the La Brea Tar Pits, where remains of ancient creatures have been found in the natural asphalt there.

<http://www.livescience.com/57095-mastodon-skulls-found-under-la-metro.html>

99M-year-old feathered dinosaur tail found in amber

The feathered tail of a tiny nonavian dinosaur that lived 99 million years ago has been found encased in amber. Soft tissue and eight vertebrae were preserved in the amber along with the tail, allowing researchers to determine it likely belonged to a young theropod, according to findings published in Current Biology.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/12/feathered-dinosaur-tail-amber-theropod-myanmar-burma-cretaceous/>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/12/feathered-dinosaur-tail-amber-theropod-myanmar-burma-cretaceous/>

Calendar

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CREATE

January 2017

S M T W T F S

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31 1 2 3 4

My calendars

Other calendars

Jan 1 1:30PM Metalcrafters Workshop by appt. New Year's Day

Jan 2 New Year's Day observed

Jan 3 7PM - Footeers II Workshop - Toledo Botan 9 Extreme beaders

Jan 4 6:30PM - Gem Crafters HQ HO HO HAPF

Jan 5 12p NOON - Gem Crafters

Jan 6

Jan 7

Jan 8

Jan 9

Jan 10 9 Extreme beaders

Jan 11 6:30 pm - Gem Crafters Workshop/Meetir

Jan 12 6:30PM - Metalcrafters Workshop by app 12p NOON - Gem Crafters

Jan 13

Jan 14 Introduction to Faceting

Jan 15 Introduction to Faceting 1:30PM Metalcrafters Workshop by appt.

Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day 6p Monthly beaders April to November

Jan 17 7PM - Footeers II Workshop - Toledo Botan 9 Extreme beaders

Jan 18 7p 7PM Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club

Jan 19 12p NOON - Gem Crafters

Jan 20

Jan 21 Gem Crafters

Jan 22 1p Junior Rockhounds meeting 1p Juniors

Jan 23 Gem Crafter Training

Jan 24 9 Extreme beaders

Jan 25 6:30 PM - Gem Crafters Workshop/Meetir

Jan 26 6:30PM - Metalcrafters Workshop by app 12p NOON - Gem Crafters

Jan 27

Jan 28

Jan 29

Jan 30

Jan 31 9 Extreme beaders

Feb 1 6:30PM - Gem Crafters Workshop/Meetir

Feb 2 12p NOON - Gem Crafters

Feb 3

Feb 4

Terms - Privacy

Ask me anything

9:34 AM 12/20/2016

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO METALCRAFTER MEETINGS IN JANUARY

