

Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

Volume 54, Issue 3

March 2016

MARCH'S PROGRAM IS A VISIT BY THE TBG EXECUTIVE AND MARKETING DIRECTORS

Karen Ranney Wolkins and Matt Killam will be here in March to talk with us about common interests.

What Was, What Is and What Will Be. If you have spoken to some of the veteran club members you will often hear what was. An example of what was, is the idea that a club open house is required by TBG. That was true once, but no longer. Similarly, there once were two gemcrafter accounts. One was solely for building repairs, and, perhaps inappropriately, named "Gemcrafter II (Building fund)."

Currently, repairs to the building are the purview of TBG as per the lease which reads: *Requests for, or need of, maintenance and structural repairs to the Building will be addressed individually* (Section 2, line 11)" so the \$88.76 in Gemcrafters II was merged into Gemcrafters I (now called Gemcrafters) in February of 2015 and craft center supplies became a line item in the budget.

Most consumables are paid for by the working group who consumes them. For example, in the metalcrafter group, consumables include acetylene, pickle, paper towels, light bulbs, dish soap, etc. used by the group. This leaves communally-used bathroom items, such as paper products, hand soap etc. to be accounted for in the general budget. At the February meeting, you, the club members, voted to handle this through donations, with the caveat that such donations would be reported to the treasurer for tracking purposes. So, **Please**, let Pete know when you donate, even if you do not want to be reimbursed. It will help us track real costs and improve our budgeting. Thank you.

That is what is. What will be is up to you, the members of the club.
Debby

2016 Open houses The committee has met and has agreed on the following: *We chose to do 2 open houses, one on Sunday, May 15th, and one on Sunday, November 13th, 2016.*

We would like to suggest that the cost of the open houses (\$600/day minus any income from table fees of \$10/table) be partially funded by the different auctions, since most sections of the organization would benefit from new members. We propose that 10% of these auction proceeds could be set aside to help offset the entire amount coming out of the general fund.

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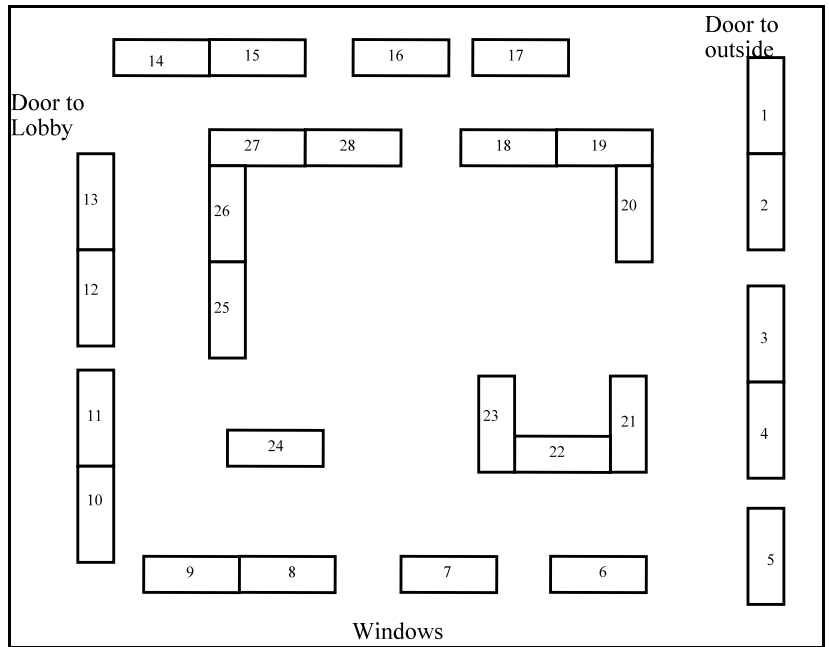
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2016 Open House "Rules"

1. The first and most important thing, is to have fun doing this!
2. We would like people to be able to bring in anything they want to sell, no garage sale type items, but on the same hand, 70% of your items need to be rock and gems related items. This would enable people not interested in rocks or gems to be able to shop.
3. Each club member may have 1 - 2 tables to start with, until we find out how many people will be there, then the list of people wanting more room or tables will be addressed. We are reserving 2 tables in the rear for our club demonstrations. The Foyer will not be used for tables, unless necessary.
4. The table fee is \$10.00 per table (or a space the size of a table)/day. Table placement may be requested by number (see room layout) at the time of payment (to Pete). Tables will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis with NO EXCEPTIONS. The location of your space is determined at the time of payment (see map).



Room layout for 2016 Open houses

5. Your tables need to be covered by someone at all times, we are not worried about who covers them as long as someone is there. We hope to have volunteer table sitters to provide some relief.
6. The craft center will be open during the open house, giving people a chance to see the kinds of things we do there. At present, Chet King will be demonstrating faceting and Debby Hoffmaster will have a make-it-take-it project.
7. The kitchen stove is not usable, so, there will not be lunch provided. Please bring your own, or arrange, in advance, for someone to cover your table while you go out for food. Coffee and donuts will be provided in the morning.
8. Flyers will be available at the March meeting for those members who may wish to distribute them to outside organizations, friends, churches, schools, employee break rooms, etc. We will put our event in the Blade events for no cost, also into the City papers events at no cost.

2015 Audit The year 2015 began with a rocky series of events. The club continued to operate out of two banks (and checkbooks) and had three changes of responsibility for the books (Shirley to Luanne, Luanne to Tonia, Tonia to Pete). Most of these problems have now been resolved, however, two remain: 1) accounting for funds from ambiguously documented sources and 2) open house expenses (The space rental fee paid to TBG (\$2400) for these two full weekend events is equal to about 90% of how much the club spends for heat (propane) and electricity for the craft center **per year**)

I have two recommendations to allay issue 1 above:
First, I think there needs to be better retention of receipts and bills to justify the checks written. **Second**, I believe the club needs a better system for tracking cash given to the treasurer, i.e., receipts need to be written more consistently.

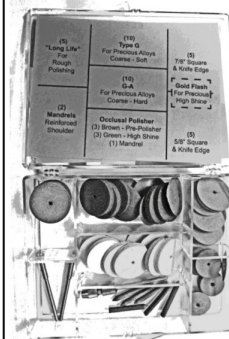
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That said, I have great confidence that the club's financial position is sound. Pete has a good handle on current expense planning and is fully organized to track club (and subgroup) expenditures and income.

James Leslie, auditor

TOLEDO GEM AND ROCKHOUND CLUB MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2016

The Metalcrafter auction preceded the meeting
Meeting started 7:45 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance
Secretary Report – moved for approval by Jim Leslie, seconded by Tom Barnhizer
Treasurer Report – Finance Report moved for approval Tom Marok, seconded by Amy Shufeldt
2016 Budget proposal was moved for approval by Tom Marok and seconded by Steve Shimatzki, membership approved

Discussion of paper use for Craft center bathroom – history – budget item? Bathroom supplies purchased need to be tracked and have the option to be reimbursed. Either way provide the receipt to Pete so usage can be tracked.

New Business

UT and BG sent thank you notes for the Scholarship Raffle awards

We received a flyer from Langsdon Rock & Mineral Collection at Mercer Co. District Library, Celina OH, www.LangsdonMinerals.org Field trip?

We need a delegate for MWF August 19, 20, 21

An emergency # for TBG is 419-266-2622

Old Business none

Group Reports

- a. Gardens: Please call Nikki at 419-536-5592 to volunteer – the next will be the seed sale in February 27 and will be at Scott High School
- b. Gemcrafters: A cabochon of the month continues 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. Chet King will offer an intro to a max of two persons so contact cljking@accesstoledo.com if interested
- d. Metalcrafters: See the Rocky Reader
- e. Beaders: See Rocky Reader
- f. Extreme Beaders: See Rocky Reader
- g. Juniors: Trip to Ann Arbor Museum of Natural History, meeting at the Museum
- h. Sunshine: No news to report
- i. Field Trips: An MSHA class is in the planning stages and we have an invitation to visit the mineral collections in the Geology Building at UT. Sandy Kline has offered to lead a trip in Sudbury Ontario for a field trip for silver collecting leaving September 16
- j. Show – John Capuano reminded members they are all part of the show committee and are needed to help to make the show successful, Mike Mayers will be contacting libraries requesting display space.

Membership: 33 members and 2 visitors that became new members Membership dues are \$16.10 single, \$21.45 family

March 16 meeting TBG will be here for a program

The meeting concluded at 8:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Mayers, Club Secretary

Thelma Postlewaite's Family News

Amberlyn Gillis	1	John Oberhouse	15
Jeff Erdman	1	Sedric Shimatzki	15
Doug Danz	2	Matthew Goeloe	20
Julia Gehring	11	Dain Allen Monhollen	21
Edwin F "Fritz" Gehring	11	Melissa Amonette	22
Stacey Goeloe	13	Nevaeh Rose Reynolds	29
Aubrey Slawinski	13	Kathryn Hotchkiss	30
Lucette Jones	13	Dave Bruns	31

CLASSES

March 5, 9:00 AM. Wire Wrapping. Instructor Elie Ghanime Cost \$10. Contact Bonnie Wheeler at b86fiero@buckeye-express.com if you need a copy of the supply list.

March 12 & 13; April 9 & 10; May 14 & 15 2016. Introduction to Faceting. Instructor Chet King (419-841-4272). Chet will take up to TWO people for this short introduction.

November 19-20, 2016. Ronda Returns! (Brought to you with proceeds from the metalcrafter auction) Ronda Coryell (www.rondacoryell.com) returns for another fantastic workshop. This time the projects will be two rings and a hollow bead. The workshop price is \$300 with substantial discounts for early registration, work at the club show and donation to the metalcrafter auction. E-mail Deb Hoffmaster (debhoffmaster@gmail.com) for details and a registration form.

GARDEN NEWS

TBG is currently taking applications for the Crosby festival through Zapplication (www.zapplication.org).

The next events for TBG will be: March 6, 2016, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm, Sunday Short Hort: March 12, 2016, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Hort Education Series: Session 2; March 16, 2016, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Weed & Wine.

FACETEERS

Chet King will do introductory classes on the SECOND weekend of the months of March, April and May. Chet will take up to two people for this short introduction. Call Chet (419-841-4272) for more information. Otherwise, contact Elie Ghanime 419-450-0160, eghanime@buckeye-express.com for more information about faceteers.

FIELD TRIPS

A field trip to view the University of Toledo Geology Department collections has been scheduled for Saturday April 30 at 2PM. A field trip to the Sudbury Region of Canada is planned for September. Contact Harold Burleson hburle@msn.com or harolddurleson12@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

The Maumee Gem, Jewelry & Rock Show
April 23, 2016
Location: Lucas County Rec Center, 2901
Key St. Maumee, OH 43537
10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Adults - \$1.00, Children under 12
- free
Free Parking
Vendors Wanted: \$20.00 per 8 ft. table
contact Lisa Keefer or
Angelsartisans@aol.com

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.

In recent months, some incorrect information regarding the operating methods and functions of the Gem Crafter group has been dispensed by non-group members. For honest, accurate and factually correct answers to any questions please contact the Gem Crafter Moderators directly.

The annual Gem Crafter Auction will be held at the April meeting. Proceeds from our auction fund equipment purchases and repair parts, oil, solvents, waxes, polishes, and other finishing supplies, plus class materials. Donations are welcome and can be brought to the craft center during Wednesday evening or Thursday afternoon Gem Crafter sessions.

March 5 Wire Wrapping Class 9:00 am - 4:00 pm in the craft center with instructor Elie Ghanime. Cost \$10. A supply list was sent out with the original announcement. Contact Bonnie Wheeler at b86fiero@buckeye-express.com if you need a copy of the supply list.

Cab of the Month for March is an interesting GraveYard Plume Agate. When finished, it presents a three dimensional cab with lots of plume accents. Cost is \$3 per slab. Available to Gem Crafter trained members beginning March 1st.

The Findings Swap Meet was deemed a success and will become an annual Gem Crafter hosted event. Future swap meets will be held during a summer month.

JUNIORS

Unfortunately, the 4th Sunday in March is Easter. So the planned Sunday meeting will be cancelled in March. We still may be able to get something else for a trip again, but I don't have firm details at the time of the deadline for the Ricky Reader. All I can say is I'll try and send out a notice when we know for sure but we will NOT meet on Sunday, March 27th. For more information, contact Steve Shimatzki - sjs132@gmail.com.

METALCRAFTERS

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! Thanks to everybody for your contributions, your purchases, and for putting out the items. We had a great auction.

Our small change to the schedule was a success: the four hour metalcrafter meeting was well received, and so, shall be repeated in March. Our March schedule will be three, two-hour meetings on Sunday March 6, Thursday March 10 and Thursday March 24 and a four hour meeting on Sunday March 20. **You will still need to confirm your attendance** by e-mailing Debby at least 24 hours in advance. 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 Debby Hoffmaster, moderator, debhoffmaster@gmail.com

Coming Events from Chetty King's Flyer Table

March 4 - 6. 43rd Annual Show, Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 N. Salisbury Rd., Richmond, IN
March 5-6. Livonia, MI. Roamin Club 44th annual special auction Schoolcraft College Visatech Center Bldg. 18600 Haggerty Rd. Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-6;

March 18 - 20. Michigan Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show Jackson County Fairgrounds American One Event Center 200 W. Ganson in Jackson, MI

April 2-3. Central Ohio Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale, Northland Performing Arts Center, 4411 Tamarack Blvd., Columbus OH 43229. Sat. 10 AM-6 PM & Sun. 11 AM-5 PM

April 15& 16 9-6, April 17, 9-5. Rocky Mountain Gem and Mineral Show. Crown Plaza Hotel & Convention Center D, 15500 E 40th Dr, Denver CO 80239. www.rockygems.com



Juniors had a great field trip to the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History for our February gathering.



April 16. 10-4 Parma Lapidary's Vault Sale, 2130 West 110th St, Cleveland Ohio 44102. Admission and parking are free. Join us for Parma Lapidary's 1st annual "vault sale" of lapidary material. There will be large amounts of cutting rough, slabs and equipment available for purchase. There will also be limited amounts of crystals, fossils and mineral specimens. More and more "old stock" lapidary material is being uncovered every day for this sale. The club website is www.parmalapidary.com, e-mail at parmalapidary@yahoo.com or like Parma Lapidary on Facebook.

April 29, 30, May 1. Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society, 57th Annual Rock, Gem, Fossil and Mineral Show, Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo, MI

June 3-5. 55th Annual State Line Club Show. Fulton County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair Building, Wauseon, OH. Friday 12-6, Saturday 10-6, and Sunday 11-4

Feature: A Once in a Lifetime Find

December 1, 2015 •Angela E. Thomas •Arts & Culture •December 2015 AY Magazine 0

Reprinted with permission of the Author from <http://www.aymag.com/feature-a-once-in-a-lifetime-find/>

The story of Esperanza is the stuff fairy tales are made of.

Photography by Cindy Momchilov and courtesy of Mike Botha

Esperanza Brooke Oskarson and boyfriend Travis Dillon visited a friend in Ratcliff, Ark., this past June, and while driving home to Colorado, the two decided to try their hands at one of their hobbies: prospecting. They'd heard of the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro. Oskarson said, "We talked about it and decided, 'Let's check it out.' We didn't know we could actually dig, but \$8 to dig ... that's not much to spend to have a little fun."

She picked a spot in the shade. They dug for a bit, then Dillon decided to rent a sifting tray. As he headed off, he told Oskarson to keep digging, if she wanted. "So I decided to dig. Three shovelfuls in, there it was. I thought, 'Oh, something shiny.' I thought it was probably a quartz or something."



When Dillon returned and saw the stone, Oskarson said, his jaw dropped. "But I said, 'Naw, there's no way it's anything.'"

So the two continued to dig for about an hour and a half before returning to the park's Diamond Discovery Center. There, visitors, when entering the park, obtain information about Arkansas diamonds and can receive instructions for digging. If they've found something, park staff can assist them in identifying their finds.

"Park staff have been trained to identify diamonds and other precious stones," said Joan Ellison, public information coordinator for Arkansas State Parks. "They don't assess the value of the items found; however, they do certify that the diamonds and other precious stones were found at the park." Other precious stones?

Ellison said diamonds, jasper, agate, amethysts and quartz crystals are just a few of the more than 40 rocks and minerals often found at the Crater of Diamonds.

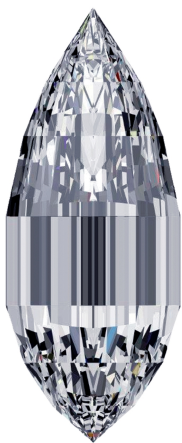
Oskarson and Dillon gave their finds to park staff. Oskarson said park officials identified and returned everything they'd turned in — "except my 'shiny.'" They'd taken that item to be further assessed. "The park ranger kept coming out saying, 'It'll be just a few more minutes.' Then they began to fill out the paperwork. I thought, 'Oh my God! Holy cow! It's a diamond?' I thought it was a joke."

She named the diamond for her niece Esperanza.

The two returned to their Longmont, Colorado, home and Oskarson began looking for an appraiser. Thankfully, she said,



Oskarson and Botha during the cutting process at Stanley Jewelers



she found Neil Beaty, an independent certified gemologist appraiser with the American Gem Registry.

“He said, ‘You’ve got two options: Go for the quick money and sell it, as is, now. Or hold out, go through a process and get more money in the long run.’”

What Oskarson did not know is that Esperanza is a rare diamond. It was an 8.52-carat, colorless diamond — it’s nitrogen-free, 100-percent crystalized carbon. According to Laura Stanley, a graduate gemologist and certified gemologist appraiser with the family-owned and -operated Stanley Jewelers, all diamonds are crystalized carbon, though, “Typically, diamonds have some impurities. They are often seen in color, like a faint yellow or brown. Esperanza has no impurities. It’s the whitest of the whites. And that’s extremely rare.”

A diamond so rare could not be trusted to just anyone. To create the perfect cut for Esperanza, they called upon the talents of Mike Botha, a master diamond cutter with Embee Diamonds. Botha has nearly five decades of experience. He’s cut more than 300 diamonds, including the Premier Rose Diamond.

“This is a very important diamond,” Botha said. “It’s the best diamond to come out of the Crater.”

Botha has enjoyed working with detailed, delicate and artsy things his entire life. As a child he loved to take watches apart and put them back together.

To cut Esperanza, he travelled from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in Canada, bringing an 800-pound cutting table to Stanley Jewelers, to create what will forever be known as The Esperanza Cut.

“Esperanza’s building blocks are perfect. This diamond is perfect. It’s more than a perfectly shaped diamond — it’s an anomaly. My job is to take its shape and harness it,” Botha said.

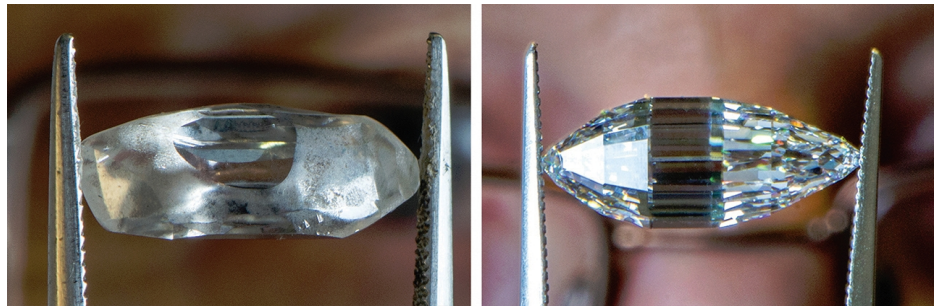
His expertise and patience — it took eight days to cut and about 130 hours to polish — yielded The Esperanza Cut, a triolette — a word that didn’t exist until now — a teardrop-like cut he designed. As a result, Esperanza is now 4.62 carats and has 147 facets.

The diamond is scheduled to be auctioned off next April at the Heritage Auction House in Dallas. Her estimated value, according to Stanley, is \$500,000.

Oskarson hoped to obtain six figures for the diamond. “No matter what, it will be a good return on the \$8 we spent to get into the park,” she said.

Esperanza is on tour and will be displayed at Stanley Jewelers at 3422 John F. Kennedy Blvd., in North Little Rock, from Dec. 1 through Christmas. For specific hours, log on to stanleyjewelers.com. For more about Esperanza, log on to her Facebook page, facebook.com/theesperanza.

Reprint permission obtained by Steve Shimatzki.



Esperanza in her raw form; (right) Esperanza as she is today, a flawless 147-facet white diamond.

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt. From Bench Tips for Jewelry Making www.BradSmithJewelry.com Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon

March

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Extreme beaders 9AM No Faceteers	2 Gemcraft 6:30PM	3 Gemcraft 12 noon	4	5
6 Metalcraft	7	8 Extreme beaders 9AM	9 Gemcraft 6:30PM	10 Gemcraft 12 noon Metalcraft 6:30	11	12 Introduction to Faceting
13 Introduction to Faceting	14	15 Extreme beaders 9AM No faceteers	16 Club meeting 7PM TBG speakers	17 Gemcraft 12 noon	18	19
20 Metalcraft 12-4	21 Beaders 6PM	22 Extreme beaders 9AM	23 Gemcraft 6:30PM	24 Gemcraft 12 noon Metalcraft 6:30	25	26
27 Juniors 1PM	28	29 Extreme beaders 9AM	30 Gemcraft 6:30PM	31 Gemcraft 12 noon		