



Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

Volume 54, Issue 5

May, 2016

MAY IS POTLUCK MONTH!

The club meeting on May 18th starts early because it is a POTLUCK!!

Please arrive by 6:00pm to set out your dishes. Everybody who

comes is asked to bring a meat dish plus a:

- vegetable dish if your LAST name begins with A-J or

- dessert if your LAST name begins with K - Z

Please remember to bring your own plates and utensils

May Open House

The May open house will be Sunday May 15th, from 9AM to 5PM.

The building will be open for set up at 6AM. Pete is still taking

reservations for table space at \$10/table There will be free use of the

craft center all day, projects and garden walks. We need your help.

Please come in and work in the craft center or volunteer to help with

a craft table.

☺ If you borrowed calipers from the Craft Center and have forgotten to return them, please do. They are needed.

☺ John Capuano is recuperating from foot surgery.

TOLEDO GEM AND ROCKHOUND CLUB MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2016

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05pm
- 2) Secretary Report Moved for approval by Amy Shufeldt, seconded Shirley Steib and passed
- 3) Treasurer Report – Moved for approval by Tom Marok , seconded by Greg Freight and passed
- 4) New Business: none to report
- 5) Old Business: none to report
- 6) Group Reports:
Fieldtrips (Harold) –

A field trip to view the University of Toledo Geology Department collections has been scheduled for Saturday April 30 at 2PM. Park in the student section (12S) of the Law College lot. To get to this, take Secor Road along the west side of the UT campus and then turn east onto the campus road called Towerview Blvd. You'll go a couple of hundred yards along this road before reaching the Law College parking lot on your right (the turn off into the lot is just before the four-way stop intersection). Mark Camp and Jim Harrell will meet us

President

Deb Hoffmaster

517-265-6284

debhoffmaster@gmail.com

Vice-President

vacant

Treasurer

Linn Petersen 419-536-6606

petersenLinnA@aol.com

Secretary

Mike Mayers 419-885-5613

glassman@buckeye-express.com

Sgt.-At-Arms

Greg Feight 517-605-6720

gsfeight@tc3net.com

Board Members

Harold Burleson

419-704-6662

haroldburleson12@gmail.com

hburle@msn.com

Elie Ghanime 419-450-0160

eghanime@buckeye-express.com

Kathy Petersen 419-536-6606

mlrlyt@AOL.com

Past President

Tonia Wallace 419-868-9147

toniawallace@att.net

Membership

Steve Shimatzki

419-861-0147

sjs132@gmail.com

Show Chairperson

John Capuano

419-882-1733

jscapuano@yahoo.com

Editor

D. Hoffmaster 517-265-6284

debhoffmaster@gmail.com

editor@rockyreader.com

Sunshine

Joe Motter 419-691-2783

joepat1962@buckeye-express.com

Craft Center 419-531-8124

at the entrance to Bowman-Oddy Laboratories, which is just across intersection at the northeast corner of the parking lot.

The Parma club has a trip to on June 4th Flint Ridge and to Virginia and our members are welcome. See web sites goldohio@yahoo.com or mmbamfield@yahoo.com

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MSHA training at the State Line Club show on June 4
 Open House (Nancy) Contact Pete (treasurer) tables
 419-535-6606
 Beaders (Nancy) see the Rocky Reader calendar
 Show (John) –
 Rocky Reader (Debby) - deadline midnight Monday April 25
 Metalcrafters (Debby) – meet May 1, 12, 15 and 26.
 Metalcrafters work free 9-5 on the 15th.
 Sunshine (Joe) –
 Extreme Beaders (Kathy) see the Rocky Reader calendar
 Faceters – (Elie) May 14 & 15 Chet will demo faceting for
 two each day - contact Chet if interested
 Juniors (Steve) attending UT Geology collection
 Membership (Steve) – 44members, 4 juniors and 4 guests
 Gardens (Chet) – Plant sale May 5 – 8 contact Nikki at the
 Gardens to volunteer and help our club with hours.

8) Gemcrafters – (Bonnie) – see the Rocky Reader calendar
 Next Meeting May 18 Potluck.
 Adjourn – at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted, Mike Mayers Club Secretary

Thelma Postlewaite's Family News

Ruby Reynolds	4	George Burns	9
Benjamin Drake	5	Pamela Marok	16
Amanda Bowen	5	Wedad Ghanime	19
Audrey Senghas	5	Gwen Day	19
John Hull	8	Nona Weideman	24
		Susan Szempias	25

CLASSES

May 14&15. Introduction to Faceting. Instructor Chet King (419-841-4272). Chet will take up to TWO people for this short introduction.

May 21. Gemcrafter class. Contact Bonnie Wheeler for more information - 419-824-2049
 b86fiero@buckeye-express.com

May 23 5:30. Gemcrafter Training. Contact Natalie Hill (natalie.hill.designs@gmail.com) for more information.

May 28. Gemcrafter class. Contact Bonnie Wheeler for more information - 419-824-2049
 b86fiero@buckeye-express.com

November 19-20, 2016. Ronda Returns! - two spaces left - (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

The following events are scheduled for April and early May:

May 1, 2016, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Sunday Short Hort
May 5, 2016, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Spring Plant Sale:
Bubbles & Buds Member Preview
May 6, 2016, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm Spring Plant Sale
May 7, 2016, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Spring Plant Sale
May 8, 2016, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Spring Plant Sale
May 18, 2016, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Weed & Wine

Volunteers are needed for the Spring Plant Sale, May 5-8. To volunteer, contact Nikki Eggerstorfer, Volunteer Coordinator at 419-536-5592 or nikki.eggerstorfer@toledogarden.org

FACETEERS

Chet King will do introductory classes on the SECOND weekend of 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 the Sudbury Region of Canada is planned for September. 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

THANK YOU to all of our extremely generous donors and buyers who supported the Gem Crafter Auction and Sale at the April meeting. Our total proceeds were \$1,539.75!! This money will be spent on supplies, replacement parts and new gem crafting equipment. A special THANK YOU to everyone who helped organize donations, assisted in set up and tear down and served as runners during the auction - and to SUSAN SZEMPIAS for the awesome cakes and Shirley Steib for the taste bud tingling Key Lime Pie!

THANK YOU MIKE BORRMAN for donating a Dremel Tool and Attachments to the the Gem Crafter Group. The tool will allow group members to create intricate cabochon designs and gemstone carvings. Mike creates awesome designs himself!

INTRODUCTION TO CABOCHON CREATION: another training class will be held in May. Class size is limited to four members. Please contact Natalie directly to register for this free training. Her email is: Natalie.Hill.Designs@gmail.com. Bonnie Wheeler, Natalie Hill, Greg Feight, Chet King

JUNIORS

The juniors group will be joining the field trip to UT on April 30. For more information, contact Steve Shimatzki - sjs132@gmail.com.

METALCRAFTERS

We will meet May 1 (1:30 - 3:30), 12 (6:30-8:30), 15 (9-5) and 26 (6:30-8:30). Metalcrafters work free 9-5 on the 15th. On the 1st, 12th and 26th you will need to confirm your attendance by e-mailing Debby at least 24 hours in advance and pay the \$2.00 session fee Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes (no sandals) to all metalcrafter meetings.

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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 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

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

April 30: 10-6 & May 1: 11-5. Geo Fair 2016. Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd, Sharonville, OH 45246

May 14 & 15: 10-5. ROCKaRAMA JEWELRY, GEM, CRYSTAL, FOSSIL & MINERAL SHOW, Soccer Sportsplex, 31515 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted, Ohio.

May 28 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and 29 10 a.m.-5 p.m. CGMA'S 40th Anniversary Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show. DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 W. Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL

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

June 4-5, Mansfield, OH. Richland Lithic & Lapidary Society annual show; Richland Co. Fairgrounds, 75 N. Home Rd.; Contact: Tom Kottyan at 419-562-1152 or themineralhouse@netzero.net.

June 11th 8am-1pm. The Sac & Fox Lapidary Club 2016 ANNUAL ROCK SWAP. Howard Park Court & Grimes Fairfield IA 52556. Set-up is \$7.00 Bring your own tables. If It rains you will not be able to set up on the grass. Contact Florence Stevens for more information: 1-641-470-1517

Additional Show dates are listed on the Midwest Federation website <http://www.amfed.org/mwfw>

Click on Calendar and then on the month you are interested in from the list at the left.

PENN DIXIE - A GLOBAL GEOLOGICAL TREASURE - Are you looking for a summer outing? Penn Dixie is an outdoor educational experience second to none. Science fans of all types are drawn to our 54-acre site in Hamburg, New York for unique learning opportunities in geology, astronomy, ecology, and ornithology. We offer day science programs, summer day camps, group tours, and special events through most of the year. Penn Dixie is Tripadvisor's #1 thing to do in Blasdell, New York, too.

Our paleontology can't be beat: Penn Dixie is ranked as the #1 fossil park in the U.S. in a scientific study. Visitors to Penn Dixie are encouraged to collect - and keep - fossils from a shallow ocean environment that existed 380 million years ago.

Penn Dixie is operated by the Hamburg Natural History Society, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Program proceeds - including tax-deductible donations - support the conservation of our site, upkeep of facilities, and educational staffing. Check it out: <https://penndixie.org/>

Thanks to the April 2016 Galcial Groove for the trip tip.

THE MERIT OF METALS – SILVER The importance of silver coins and bullion as trade instruments consistently allowed entities with access to silver mines to gain predominance over their neighbors. Silver was the engine propelling history's empires, and even in today's jewelry industry, the importance of silver can't be understated, as a plurality of jewelers say that silver jewelry provides their best-maintained margins (from this survey of jewelry stores conducted for the Silver Institute).

Ancient Athenian Silver Silver played a critical role in the existence of the world's first democracy: the ancient Athenian state. The silver mines in Laurium were critical to the Athenian economy, funding the famous trireme navies of the Persian and Peloponnesian wars, and the construction of great architectural monuments like the Parthenon, the main example of classic Greek architecture. The first institute of higher learning in the western world was founded during this time, the Platonic Academy, where Plato instructed Aristotle. Athens' influence extended not only through out the Mediterranean but resonates even today as its legacy of democratic governance and classic

architectural styling persists. It is unlikely that the ancient Athenians would have thrived like they did but for the wealth provided by the silver mines at Laurium.

New World Silver Similar to the ancient Athenian empire; the Spanish empire of the 16th through 18th centuries was a naval power built upon silver mines, this time located in Mexico and Bolivia. The original “empire on which the sun never sets”, Spain flourished with vast quantities of silver, and maintained a presence on every continent but Antarctica. Sunken Spanish treasure galleons from this period are still being searched for and recovered today, laden with silver coins and other ancient treasures. While gold mined and minted by the Spanish during this period is romanticized and receives the attention in popular culture, the silver acquired by the Spanish during this period outweighed the gold nearly a hundredfold (receipts from the House of Trade in Seville report 91 grams of silver for every 1 gram of gold.) The Spanish empire was the first nation to engage in global trade, establishing permanent trade routes that spanned the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Japan’s Silver As the Spanish empire was overflowing with silver from the new world, the largest silver mine in Japanese history, Iwami Ginzan, was funding the Tokugawa Shogunate’s unification of Japan. The Tokugawa Shogunate ruled Japan from 1603 CE to 1868 CE, known as the “Edo Period.” Mining operations at Iwami Ginzan continued until 1929, outlasting the Tokugawa Shogunate by over seventy years. Estimated to have accounted for one third of the silver mined annually at peak production, Iwami Ginzan contributed to the economic development of Japan and Southeast Asia during the 16th and 17th century. Despite Japan’s selfimposed seclusion during this time period, a significant amount of trade occurred, resulting in the exchange of cultural values and scientific knowledge between Japan and the west through their sole European trading partner the United East Indian Company (also known as the Dutch East India Company.) Excerpted from the G and S Metals blog viaThe Living Stones April 2016

TUMBLING For tumbling of rocks as a lapidary technique, a plastic or rubber-lined barrel is loaded with a consignment of rocks, all of similar or the same hardness, some abrasive grit, and a liquid lubricant. Silicon carbide grit is commonly used, and water is a universal lubricant. The barrel is then placed upon slowly rotating rails so that it rotates. The optimal speed of rotation depends on the size of the tumbler barrel and materials involved.

A well-chosen speed for stone polishing causes the rocks within the barrel to slide past each other, with the abrasive grit between them. The result of this depends on the coarseness of the abrasive, and the duration of the tumble.

Typically, a full tumble polish from rough rock to polish takes between 3-5 weeks, and is done in a minimum of 3 steps. Initially, the rocks are smoothed with a coarse grit (such as 60-90 mesh). The idea behind the first step is to take your rough rock or stone and grind it (tumble it) down into a form which is indistinguishable (in shape) from the final product.[3] This is followed by washing and then a stage of finer grits (120-220 then 400-600 mesh), before the (optional) use of a pre-polishing compound (1200 grit), a washing cycle with detergent to remove any grit on the stones. The final step is a polishing stage using powdered polish, (such as cerium oxide or tin oxide), water, and often small plastic pellets that are designed to cushion the stones as they tumble (so as not to cause chipping) and carry the polish evenly across the stones. The precise tumbling time is determined by many factors, including the hardness of the rock and the degree of smoothing desired in the coarser steps. Some people will tumble stones with rough grit for two, three or even four weeks to get their desired shapes out of the stones.

There are two main types of rock tumbling: barrel (rotary) tumbling, and vibratory tumbling. Rotary tumbling is more common, simpler, quieter and less expensive than vibratory tumblers. There are two differentiating factors, however, that may lead one to use a vibratory tumbler. First, vibratory tumbler retain the overall shape of the rough rock, whereas rotary tumblers tend to make rocks round. Thus, it is important to use vibratory tumbler to make faceted shapes and tear drop forms. Second, vibratory tumblers tend to process much faster than rotary tumblers, generally reducing the process time to half.

Sometimes, stone "preforms" are used. This refers to cutting shapes from the rough rock, before tumbling. This gives more control over the final piece, so shapes such as a tear drop can be produced. The technique is still limited to rounded shapes. Preforms may use less time with the coarsest step, or skip it altogether.

During the 1970s, small rock tumblers were a common hobby item, and jewelry decorated with tumbled semi-precious stones was very much in fashion. Likewise, dishes and decorative glass jars filled with tumbled stones (often including common rocks not suitable even for costume jewelry) were frequently used as household ornaments. From: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tumble_finishing Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

DINOSAUR EXTINCTION THEORY: NEW RESEARCH MAY DRAW 'CURTAIN OF FIRE' ON THEORIES Source: University of Leeds November 23, 2015

The role volcanic activity played in mass extinction events in Earth's early history is likely to have been much less severe than previously thought, according to a study led by the University of Leeds. Asteroid impacts and long-lasting volcanic eruptions called continental flood basalts -- the two most commonly cited possible causes of mass extinction events -- would have propelled gas and dust into the atmosphere and altered climate for years. But, until now, the impact of years of sulphur dioxide emissions from continental flood basalts was unknown.

In a study published online in Nature Geoscience, researchers have provided for the first time a quantitative estimate of the degree and nature of the effects that such eruptions had on Earth's climate, vegetation and oceans.

Study lead author Dr. Anja Schmidt, from the University's School of Earth and Environment, said: *At the time when the dinosaurs reigned, numerous long-lasting eruptions took place over the course of about a million years. These eruptions, called 'continental flood basalts' were not like volcanic eruptions we often see today, with lava gushing from the ground like a curtain of fire.*

Each eruption is likely to have lasted years, even decades, and eruptions were separated by periods without volcanic activity. The lava produced by an eruption of average intensity would have filled 150 Olympic-size swimming pools per minute.

In the new study, the researchers used a sophisticated computer simulation of the spread of the gas and aerosol particles, which showed that the climatic impact of flood basalts was less grim than scientists had previously suggested. They found that only if such flood basalts oozed for hundreds of years, without interruption, may the climatic impacts have had a severe effect on plants and animals.

The researchers used information on the duration and intensity of continental flood basalt eruptions, such as the Deccan Traps eruptions 65 million years ago, which covered one-third of what is now India, to estimate the climatic and environmental effects of the huge quantities of sulphur dioxide gas emitted by these eruptions.

Their computer simulation showed that temperatures on Earth were indeed cooler as a result of the eruptions -- by as much as 4.5 degrees Celsius -- but that the temperature would return to normal within 50 years after an eruption ceased.

Dr. Schmidt noted that the conclusions are based on the assumption that climate feedbacks were very similar to those today.

"Perhaps most intriguingly, we found that the effects of acid rain on vegetation were rather selective. Vegetation in some but not all parts of the world would have died off, whereas in other areas the effects would have been negligible," said Dr. Schmidt.

The new findings will challenge the Earth sciences community as a whole to re-examine the causes of mass extinctions and the role of volcanism. "We now need to better understand how long both the individual eruptions and the periods without volcanic activity lasted," concludes Dr. Schmidt.

Reprinted from: MWF News April 2016

How to Work Amber

by Frank Monahan (Puget Sounder – 8/01, Rock Rollers – 10/99, Delvings – 8/98)

Use wet/dry sandpaper. Always sand amber wet. Start with 100 grit, take off all outer coating.

Dip in water, then hold against strong light to locate insects.

Shape and/or round corners with metal file.

Using 200 grit sandpaper, sand until all deep scratches from 100 grit are gone.

Finish sanding with 600 grit. Use circular motion to prevent long scratches.

Let piece dry. Examine your finish carefully to see if you missed any bad spots. Remove bad spots before proceeding.

Put regular toothpaste on wet wash cloth. Make a paste and rub amber to polish. (Gel type toothpaste isn't abrasive enough). From: <http://www.wamsi.org/content/rock-specs>

Miscellany: From Sigma Xi Smartbrief -

<https://www2.smartbrief.com/news/sigmaxi/archive.jsp>:

March 17. "Tully monster" identified as vertebrate after about 60 years

A bizarre, tiny creature known as the Tully monster that lived more than 300 million years ago has been identified as a vertebrate similar to modern lampreys about 60 years after the discovery of myriad fossils in Illinois. Researchers studying more than 1,200 specimens of Tullimonstrum gregarium noted a pale line running down through its tail that was determined to be a notochord, placing it among vertebrates. "The Tully monster also has large complex eyes, horny teeth, a tail fin with fin rays and a tri-lobed brain," features that helped in the identification, according to Victoria McCoy, co-author of a study published in Nature.

March 24. Bat fossil found in Hawaii identified as new species

A bat fossil has been identified as a new species native to Hawaii. Synemporion keana, one of just two species of bats native to the island state, became extinct more than 1,000 years ago. "The new bat contains a mosaic of features from taxa seen on many different continents. At some point, their ancestors flew to Hawaii, but we can't tell if they came from North America, Asia or the Pacific Islands. They really could have come from anywhere, based on what we know now," said Nancy Simmons, co-author of a study published in American Museum Novitates.

April 1. Satellite images point to possible Viking site in Newfoundland

Infrared satellite images have led archaeologists to a site in Newfoundland that could be an ancient Viking settlement. Researchers spotted dark areas at what they've dubbed Point Rosee in high-resolution photos taken from space, and they have begun excavating, finding evidence of ironworking that suggests the site may be a second Viking settlement in North America. The archaeologists' work will be highlighted in a two-hour documentary, "Vikings Unearthed," set to air on PBS.

April 4. Ancient snake skin may help scientists add color to extinct creatures

The fossilized skin of an ancient snake is helping researchers fill in colors of ancient creatures that once could only have been imagined, a new study published in Current Biology suggests. Previously, melanin found in some fossil vertebrates gave limited indication of colors, but a 10-million-year-old snake skin has retained chromatophores, structures associated with pigments. "Instead of just getting the stuff that hangs around the longest in a decaying animal, we actually have all of the color producing mechanisms preserved," said Maria McNamara, lead author of the study.

April 13. Archaeologists discover ancient glass-making kilns in Israel

Ancient glass-making kilns dating back 1,600 years have been found during an archaeological dig in Israel, suggesting that the industrial development of the area occurred much earlier than previously thought. "This is evidence that Israel constituted a production center on an international scale; hence its glassware was widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean and Europe," said glass expert and University College London professor Ian Freestone.

May

2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Metalcraft 1:30	2	3 Extreme beaders 9AM	4 Gemcraft 6:30PM	5 Gemcraft 12 noon	6	7
8	9	10 Extreme beaders 9AM	11 Gemcraft 6:30PM	12 Gemcraft 12 noon Metalcraft 6:30	13	14 Introduction to Faceting
15 Open House 9-5 Introduction to Faceting Metalcraft	16 Beaders 6PM	17 Extreme beaders 9AM	18 Club meeting 6PM POTLUCK	19 Gemcraft 12 noon	20	21 Gemcrafter Class
22 Juniors 1PM	23 Gemcrafter Training 5:30	24 Extreme beaders 9AM	25 Gemcraft Auction	26 Gemcraft 12 noon Metalcraft 6:30	27	28 Gemcrafter Class
29	30	31 Extreme beaders 9AM	27 Gemcraft 6:30PM	28 Gemcraft 12 noon	29	30