

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

January 2025



Letter from the President

Letter from the President

Hello Fellow Rockhounds

A new year has started. Resolutions are being made. What resolution did you make? Is it to finally cut open that rock you found or do some research to locate a new area for fossil hunting? Maybe this is the year you will make a pendant or facet a gemstone. If your resolution is rock related, our talented moderators will help you keep that resolution.

I do hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Remember, if we have inclement weather, check the website calendar before you try to attend your work session in case it has been cancelled.

Thank you, Jim, for taking pictures of our Christmas projects before last month's meeting. We are fortunate that he was willing to contribute his time to do this.

Diane Bieber
President

Birthstones

Modern: Rose Quartz
Traditional: Garnet
Alternate: Ruby
Ancient Hebrew: Garnet

If you would like a detailed breakdown, you can check out the following site:

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones>



Happy
New Year

Table of Contents

- Letter from President 1
- Workshops 2
- Club News 3
- Industry News 4
- Board Members 5
- Club Calendar 6

Workshops

Make your first pendant class

Saturday Jan 11 from 11 am to 3 pm. Students will learn how to cut metal, make a bezel and back plate, solder, polish and set a stone. To register, contact instructor Michelle Grigore at mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com at least a week before the above date. Class is limited to 4 students. Members pay \$45, non-members \$55. All materials provided to complete a small sterling silver pendant with a polished gemstone cabochon.

Collection and Identification class

JAN 13th 6:00PM-8:00PM- Spot that spot! (Locating rockhounding locations for later exploration.



Attention All Moderators

Before leaving the craft center after your session, make sure that the thermostat is set for the appropriate temperature, all indoor lights are turned off, all doors are locked, the restroom door is locked and the key is on the hook, and the exterior door including the deadbolt is locked. It has been brought to my attention that occasionally some of these things have not been done properly. For everyone's safety and security you must review your checklist before leaving the premises.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

New year means new things! Pretty things! Here is our first member showcase! Member Michelle Grigore made some wonderful grumpy cats out of sterling silver. We would love to see some other members creations. They can be anything that you made at the club!



ARTIST: Michelle Grigore

DESCRIPTION: "Grumpy Cat" Sterling silver earrings and ring set.

INSPIRATION: "My inspiration was my cat-loving niece." It was presented as a Christmas gift.

MAKING THE EARRINGS: When she saw the "grumpy cat" steel die, Michelle says she scooped it up and used the hydraulic press in the metal crafting studio to make the cat disks out of sterling silver sheet. Michelle sawed the disks out and added posts to make them into earrings. Liver of sulfur was used to blacken the silver and bring out the texture. The high spots were buffed to create a silver contrast with the blackened background.

TIP: With the hydraulic press, anneal the metal before pressing and anneal again if the metal gets too work hardened. Michelle says, "Metal will tear and crack if too 'hard' and you'll have to start over. But at least you can melt down your mistakes and make a casting out of them."

MAKING THE RING: The ring was made using the lost wax casting method. She started with a purchased wax model, which Michelle modified by adding thickness to the band. She described the process: "You pour high temp plaster (casting investment) around the wax in a steel flask. The wax and plaster flask goes in the kiln where the wax vaporizes, leaving a mirror image in the plaster. Now you melt your metal and shoot it into the flask via a centrifugal casting machine. It's a pretty neat way to create jewelry."

Michelle regularly moderates the metal crafting classes at the TGRC workshops. She's always willing to give guidance to Club members. Check the activity monthly calendar for her schedule and prepare to get creative!

Written by Jim Nowak

Texas Topaz

Gem-quality naturally blue topaz occurs in Mason County, Texas. Known as “Texas topaz,” this gem is highly sought after in the United States because of its domestic provenance and rare natural blue color.

To date, no studies have identified gemological or compositional characteristics that could distinguish Texas topaz from topaz sourced elsewhere. Most Texas topaz is colorless, though some is light blue or brown. A small percentage of the blue stones displayed a saturated bodycolor. Topaz crystals from Mason County are not often free of inclusions. When present, multiphase melt and fluid inclusions contain carbon dioxide. Mineral inclusions include albite, anorthite, quartz, muscovite, pseudobrookite, and columbite-tantalite.



A fine 925 ct crystal that was formerly displayed in the Texas State Capitol and sat on the governor's desk in 1969 when the legislature adopted blue Texas topaz as the state gem. This specimen was found in 1904 and now resides in the Hamman Gem and Mineral Gallery in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin (catalog no. B0344). Photo by Blanca Espinoza.



Rough topaz from Mason County, showing the range of color of this material. The large blue specimen weighs 188 ct. Photo by Emily Lane; courtesy of Diane Eames.



Faceted Texas topaz specimens with brown, blue, and green bodycolors, ranging from 0.62 to 9.34 ct. Texas topaz has been sought after for its naturally occurring blue color. Photo by Brad Hodges; courtesy of Diane Eames.

Board Members

President

Diane Bieber
Quartz1tgrc@gmail.com

Vice President

Tricia Jackson
trgcsowvolunteers@gmail.com

Treasurer

Steve Stalker
sstalker@bex.net

Secretary

Deb Oswald
catstgrc@gmail.com

Past President

Joanna Toepfer
jpoanna@cqasolutions.com

Sergeant-At-Arms

Bill Oswald
catstgrc@gmail.com

Show Chair

Jerri Heer/Jim Nowak
jheerx6@aol.com
jimages@buckeye-express.com

Membership Chair

Michelle Grigore
mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com

Board Member

William Miniard
Editor.Rockyreader@gmail.com

Board Member

Sherm Kardatzke
Sakardaszke@gmail.com

Website Editor

Steve Stalker/William Miniard
sstalker@bex.net

Board Member

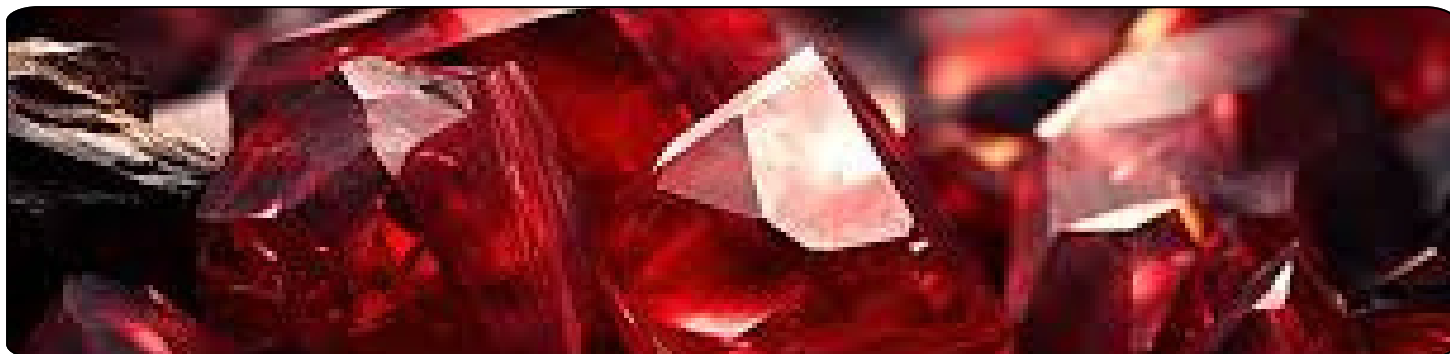
Mike Cameron
michaelcameron@utoledo.edu

Newsletter Editor

William Miniard
Editor.Rockyreader@gmail.com

Sunshine Chair

Linda Mcconahey
567-277-8283



 Faceting
 Rocky Reader
 Gem Crafters
 Extream Beaders
 Metal Crafters
 Collection/I.D

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Steve	3	4 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
5	6	7 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	8	9 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	10	11 12:00 PM Gem Crafters 12-3 Erika 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle
12 1:00 PM Gem Crafters 1-4 Erika Faceting class Anthony	13 6:00 PM Collection/I.D 6-8 Max	14 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	15 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	16 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Steve	17	18 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
19	20	21 Extream Beaders Fieldtrip 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	22	23 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	24	25 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike
26 Faceting class Anthony	27	28 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	29	30 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Steve	31	

- Faceting
- Rocky Reader
- Gem Crafters
- Extream Beaders
- Metal Crafters
- Collection/I.D

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
2 12:00 PM Gem Crafters 12-3 Erika	3	4 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	5	6 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	7	8 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
9	10	11 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	12	13 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Steve	14	15 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
16	17 6:00 PM Collection/I.D 6-8 Max	18 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	19 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	20 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	21	22 12:00 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle 10:00 AM Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
23	24	25 10:00 AM Extream Beaders 1:00 PM Metal Crafters 1-4 Michelle	26	27 11:00 AM Gem Crafters 11-3 Steve	28	