

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

June 2025



Letter from the President

Hello Fellow Rockhounds

We had a successful Open House in May. We had so many visitors that came to check out our facility and see what we do. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, vendors and demonstrators. You took time from your busy schedule to promote TGRC. Your hard work and dedication is why this club is still in existence for almost 60 years. A special thank you to Will who organized the Open House. When you see him, let him know what a great job he did.

I recently visited a Lake Erie beach with friends where we searched for fossils, sea glass and, of course, interesting rocks. It turned out to be a successful day-trip, not just because we all found great specimens but we took the proper safety precautions throughout the day. All in all, it was a perfect day of exploration and discovery. I encourage fellow rockhounds to always prioritize safety while enjoying the wonders that nature has to offer.

Enjoy your summer!

Diane Bieber
President

Birthstones

Modern: **Alexandrite**
Traditional: **Pearl**
Alternate: **Moonstone**
Ancient Hebrew: **Emerald**

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

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



Table of Contents

• Letter from President	1
• Workshops	2
• Club News	3
• Rock Shows	5
• Board Members	6
• Club Calendar	7

Workshops

Make Your First Pendant Class-

Saturday July 5 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.

Make an Inlaid Ring Class -

July 12 from noon to 3 pm. You'll need to register by May 5, 2025 for this class so the correct ring band size can be ordered. Participants will learn how to inlay crushed turquoise and bronze into a stainless steel ring. This involves using CA glue and crushed turquoise (courtesy of Diane Bieber). You will hand file the inlay till smooth and then sand/grind to a high polish. To register, contact instructor Michelle Grigore at mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com by May 5 and specify the date you will attend. Each class is limited to 5 students. Members pay \$30, non-members \$45. All materials are provided to complete a stainless steel and turquoise inlay band.

Mineral Collectors Class-

June 9th, 2025 6- MINERAL MANIA!

Bring all your unidentified and or favorite specimens! This session will be all about you and your specimens. I will have my books, and together, we can identify and share some of our favorite finds. I will provide some drinks and snacks as well. All you need to bring is 2 dollars for each hour total of 4 dollars. Half goes to the club, and half goes to mineral collectors, so we can work on getting some equipment, applying for mining safety training, and updating our library.

July 14th, 2025- Introduction to Rockhounding in the Field

This session will be a course on how to properly prepare for anything from beach combing to exploring abandoned quarries. The basics of rockhounding, including safety, prep work, and finding your own spots. All you need to bring is 2 dollars for each hour total of 4 dollars. Half goes to the club, and half goes to mineral collectors, so we can work on getting some equipment, applying for mining safety training, and updating our library.

Juniors -

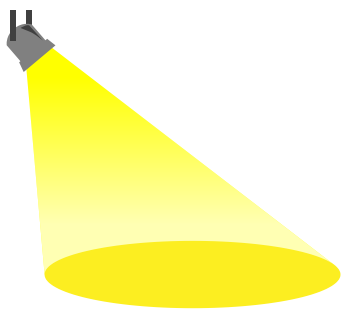
Our first meeting will be June 7th from 2 - 3 PM, we will be looking at a variety of specimens and building individual collection boxes.



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.

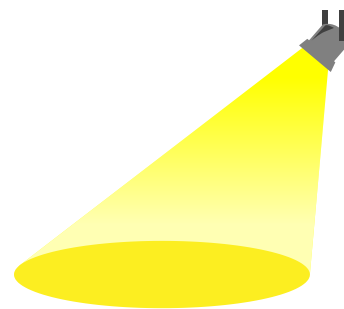
Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!!!!

ARTIST: Max Kelso

DESCRIPTION: Collection and Identification



“Chet King got me started,” reminisced Max Kelso, citing his interest in fossils and mineral specimens. Chet was a talented, legendary elder in the Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) who passed away last year. Max is in his mid-twenties and says his interest in rocks and minerals started almost from birth. As a small child he remembers, “My Dad was caretaker at Toledo Botanical Gardens and he’d take me with him to work.” The TGRC workshop was just steps away so Max, who loved exploring, wandered over regularly. “Chet was so kind and patient.” One of Max’s most cherished specimens is a trilobite Chet gave him. Now, Max honors Chet’s legacy through field trips, as well as hosting mineral collection and identification sessions each month at TGRC.

One course he leads is an introduction to rockhounding in the field, bringing survival skills he learned in his days of primitive camping as an Eagle Scout. Instructions range from simple safety tips such as not wearing shorts and flip-flops on field expeditions to rules and courtesies of collecting, which he summarizes as, “Don’t be a jerk! Collect what you need or want but don’t destroy the site.”

One of Max’s goals is to spark interest with younger people in their 20’s and 30’s. With the lure of electronic devices, Max says it’s too easy to be an “arm-chair geologist and never go out to collect.” Max feels a screen eliminates the adventure of real discovery and the whimsy of unexpected finds. It loses that excitement of the unknown.

Case in point - while searching near the shores of Lake Erie, Max came upon mounds of abandoned pieces of brick molds from Ohio Brick, a company that went out of business in the 1940s. “This was completely unexpected. They used local clay material, packed together and baked to make the bricks to make our cities. This is history. It was an absolute surprise.” True to form, Max collected just two pieces to preserve and left the rest.

Max is planning a Collecting & ID session on the 2nd Monday of each month. Coming up: June Mineral Mania. He invites members to bring in mystery rocks, minerals or specimens. He’ll try to identify them in this informal gathering. Does Max worry about being stumped? “If you hit a roadblock in identifying a specimen and just stop, you don’t learn.” Figuring out other ways to identify something? “That’s the fun!”

Watch The Rocky Reader calendar for other Collection and ID opportunities. Who knows what you’ll discover?

-Story & photos by Jim Nowak



“Want to know what these specimens are? Ask Max!”

Here is a little update on what is happening in the club, We now have a Juniors program again thanks to our member Stacy! Im sure it will be a blast and the kids will have a ton of fun. The Mineral Collectors class has been having some fun also and might have some possible trips in mind! Mentioned in a previous issue, Facetors got a new machine and now Gem Crafters is getting one too. We are fortunate to be able to get more machines, so that more members can use them! We have been pretty busy and with the Open house over it is time to start getting ready for our big show in September!

Sign up is now open for Treasures Unearthed- the big rock, gem and jewelry show in September.

You can find the link on the Facebook page or you can email me at trgcsowvolunteers@gmail.com

Sign up before July 31st and You get a nifty T-Shirt



Auction in June

There will be an auction on June 18th after the general meeting. On the auction block are artifacts, jewelry and other rock related items. Take advantage of the great bargains you will get and support the metal crafters.

State Line Gem & Mineral Show - 05/30/2025

Start Date: 05/30/2025

End Date: 06/01/2025

Hours: Friday 12-6, Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-4

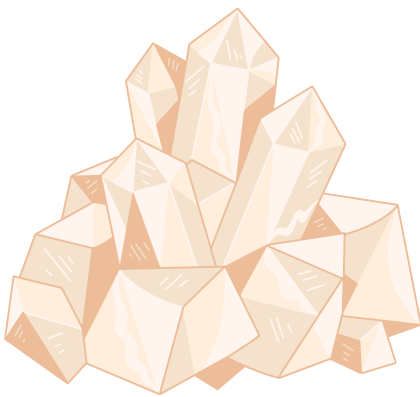
Venue: Fulton County Fairgrounds - Junior Fair Building

Address: 8514 State Route 108

Wauseon , OH 43567

Website: <http://statelinegms.com>

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows



Mid-Ohio Mineral & Fossil Club Show - 06/07/2025

Start Date: 06/07/2025

End Date: 06/08/2025

Hours: Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 11:00-5:00

Venue: Richland County Fairgrounds - Fairhaven Hall

Address: 750 North Home Road

Richland County Fairgrounds - Fairhaven Hall

Mansfield, OH 44906

Website: <http://www.midohiomineralandfossilclub.com/>

Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club - 06/14/2025

Start Date: 06/14/2025

End Date: 06/14/2025

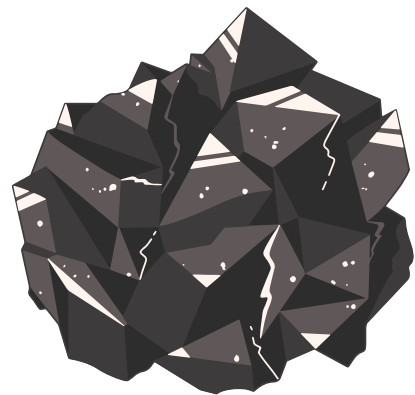
Hours: Sat 9:00 - 1:00

Venue: Woodland Drive-In Church

Address: 2600 Breton SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Website: <http://www.indianmoundsrockclub.com/>

Types: Specimens, Crystals, Slabs, Rough, Fossils,
Equipment, Jewelry



Flint Rock and Gem Club Rock Swap- 06/14/2025

Start Date: 07/12/2025

End Date: 07/13/2025

Hours: Sat 9:00 - 4:00 Sun 9:00 - 4:00

Venue: Mott Community College

Address: 4082 W. Vienna Road, Clio, MI

Website: <https://flintrockandgem.org/>

Types: Rock Swap

Board Members

President

Diane Bieber
Quartz1tgrc@gmail.com

Vice President

Tricia Jackson
trgcshowvolunteers@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
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



JUNE 2025

 Faceting
 Rocky Reader
 Gem Crafters
 Extream Beaders

 Metal Crafters
 Collection/I.D
 Juniors

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

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

JULY 2025

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