

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

November 2025



Letter from the President

Hello Fellow Rockhounds

November is upon us. For TGRC members, that means elections for new officers. I hope you will be at the November general meeting to cast your vote and show your support for your 2026 officers.

There will be an auction after the November general meeting. It will benefit the gem crafters. Items for the auction were generously donated by Ruby Reynolds and are from the estate of her husband, Ed Reynolds who was a long time member of TGRC until his passing. There are artifacts which he collected from his many visits to Kentucky, slabs which he cut, fossils he collected and also many mineral specimens which he found on his mining excursions out west. These auctions are very important for raising money for our various groups. Join in the fun and bid often!

We have started to clean out the garage. One estimate has been that there are over one hundred buckets of rocks and minerals in it.. Most of the buckets contain minerals that are not gem quality or even student quality. That means the minerals that we are finding, if any, have very low value and can't even be used as teaching tools. Thank you to Jerri, Sherm, Josh and Mike for their help in the mineral identification. A huge thank you to Jerri for donating shelving units so we can organize the garage once we have examined all the buckets. What will we do with the rocks and minerals that have some value? We never run out of items for our auctions and that's what we will do with the good buckets.

Have a fun and festive Thanksgiving
-Diane Bieber
President

Birthstones

Modern: **Topaz**

Traditional: **Citrine**

Alternate: **Heliodor**

Ancient Hebrew: **Topaz**

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

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

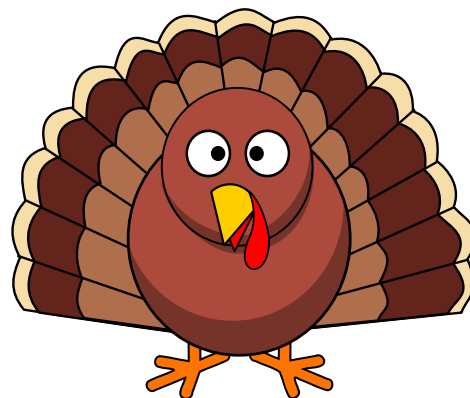


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Workshops

Make an Inlaid Ring Class -

Saturday **Nov 1** (3 spaces available) from noon to 2 pm. Participants will learn how to inlay crushed turquoise and metal shavings 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 and specify the date you will attend. Please provide ring size for several fingers and I will try to match the closest purchased inlay ring band. 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.

Make Your First Pendant Class-

Saturday **Nov 22** 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.

Stained Glass Sun Catcher Class -

Just in time for Christmas! Make your own Stained Glass sun catchers/ornaments. This class will be 4 hours on Sunday **November 2nd**. Class size is limited to 6 students and reservations are REQUIRED to allow for necessary supplies to be prepared. No experience required. All materials and tools provided.

Dates: November 2nd, 2025

Time: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 for Members
\$40 for Non-Members

Fused Glass Cabochon Class -

Tired of polishing rocks? Fused glass cab come out of the kiln nice and shiny. This class will be 4 hours on Sunday **November 9th**. Class size is limited to 6 students and reservations are REQUIRED to allow for necessary supplies to be prepared. No experience required. All materials and tools provided.

Dates: November 9, 2025

Time: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 for Members
\$40 for Non-Members

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.

Meet The Moderators “Sherm Kardatzke”

Ever wish there was a basic, inexpensive way to create custom jewelry? Take a look at wire-wrapping. Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club (TGRC) Moderator Sherm Kardatzke discovered wire-wrapping about seven or eight yaers ago and hasn't looked back. He uses wire to make intricately beautiful, custom settings for unusually shaped cabochons.

Wire-wrapping is considered a cold-connection technique. No torches or solder needed. Better yet, wire-wrapping only requires the most basic of supplies - just a stone, wire, pliers and wire cutters.

Sherm moderates gem crafting sessions. Several years ago, having cut and polished freeform gemstones that wouldn't fit commercially produced, calibrated settings, Sherm remembers, “I knew I had to either metal craft custom settings by silversmithing or find another way.” Then he saw some ladies at the Stateline Gem and Mineral Society wire-wrapping stones and decided that was a new twist. “I watched what they did. Then I found some YouTube Videos and DVDS” and picked up some more tips and advice. Next step was to start bending wire.

Sherm sees wire-wrapping as a simple way to break into jewelry making. it can start with inexpensive aluminum, nickel or copper wire. If a wire-wrapped stone doesn't look right, you can just snip off the wire and start again. “my first attempts were less than perfect,” admits Sherm. “As a matter of fact, I was kind of ashamed of my first eight or ten attempts.” But as with and new skill, practice makes you better. Now it has become so natural for him that he can create wire-wrapped jewelry while he's watching TV or videos.

“Don't be afraid of failure” counsels Sherm. Start with the basics. As Sherm instructs new wire-wrappers, he shows them step-by-step techniques on setting a basic cabochon in a pendant. Start by measuring the wire around the cab. Create the tie binding at the bottom or the stone. Form the cage for the cab. Work up to the sides and top. Finish with the bail. While the finished settings look very light and open, the stones are really quite secure.

As far as designs, each setting is unique. “I let the stone tell me what it wants,” Sherm explained. Looking at his work, it seems the stones spoke and Sherm heard their inspirations loud and clear.

Intrigued? TGRC is organizing wire-wrapping classes for early 2026. If you want to try it even earlier, Sherm can give you a head start during one of his Saturday gem crafter sessions at TGRC. Sherm may be contacted at sakardatzke@gmail.com and check the Rocky Reader calendar for his schedule. Who knows? With Sherm's guidance and some practice, you may soon become a “wrap artist” too!

- Written by Jim Nowak





November Elections are coming up for new officers and here is the lineup. Make sure to attend and cast your vote!



Nominating Committee Slate of Officers for November election
The nominating committee, consisting of Michelle Grigore, Sherm Kardatzke, and Shirley Steib submits the following slate of officers:

- President: Jerri Heer
- Vice-president: James Nowak
- Treasurer: Steve Stalker has agreed to run for Treasurer one last year- the club members suspended the bylaw rules so he could run for a third term.
- Secretary: Debi Oswald
- Sergeant at Arms: Bill Oswald agreed to run again, the club members suspended the bylaw rules so he could run for a third term.
- Board member (3 yr term): Dana Jacob Szymanski



Elections will be held at the November 19 club meeting. We had no nominations from the floor in October for additional candidates.

*HAPPY
Thanks
Giving*



Board Members

TOLEDO GEM AND ROCKHOUND CLUB 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

Board Member

William Miniard
Editor.Rockyreader@gmail.com

Board Member

Sherm Kardatzke
Sakardaszke@gmail.com

Board Member

Mike Cameron
michaelcameron@utoledo.edu

LEADING MEMBERS

Website Editor

Steve Stalker
sstalker@bex.net

Newsletter Editor

William Miniard
Editor.Rockyreader@gmail.com

Show Chair

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

Membership Chair

Michelle Grigore
mgrigoretgrh@gmail.com

Juniors

Stacy Flynn
stacyflynn2012@gmail.com

Sunshine Chair

Linda Mcconahey
567-277-8238

- Faceting

Rocky Reader

Gem Crafters

Extream Beaders
- Metal Crafters

Collection/I.D

Juniors

NOVEMBER 2025

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

DECEMBER 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	2  Extream Beaders 10-2  Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	3	4 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	5	6  PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
7	8  Collection/I.d 6-8 Max Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	9  Extream Beaders 10-2  Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	10	11 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	12	13  Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Juniors 10-3 Stacy Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
14	15 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	16  Extream Beaders 10-2  Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	17  7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	18 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	19	20  Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
21	22 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	23  Extream Beaders 10-2  Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	24  Christmas Eve No Classes	25  Christmas Day No Classes	26	27  Make Your First Pendant Class 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
28	29	30  Extream Beaders 10-2  Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	31			