

Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

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December 2005/January 2006

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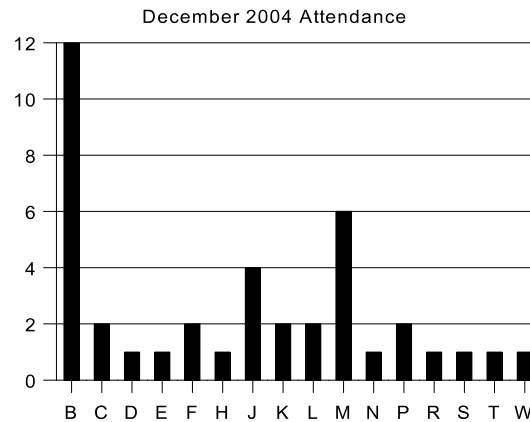
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The December meeting begins at 6PM with a potluck.

At last year's potluck we had very disproportionate food offerings (little meat, many vegetables). The December 2004 attendance distribution (shown at right) makes it clear why this was so.



To try to make a more even food distribution, while still having a nice dinner, I am asking that **EVERYBODY BRING A MEAT DISH PLUS:** A **vegetable dish** if your **LAST** name begins with **A - J** A **dessert** if your **LAST** name begins with **K - Z** Please remember to **bring your own table service.** I

know this is different and if it doesn't work well, please let me (Debby) know.

We will also **install the new officers** and have a gift exchange. If you want to join the **Christmas Gift exchange**, wrap your gift in **RED** if it is for a woman, in **Blue** if it is for a man, and in **another color** for a child.

Speaker for January Meeting Announced

On January 18, Dr. Daryl Moorehead of the University of Toledo will speak about Dry Valley ecosystems. We will also host Dr. Charlie Onash and several of the Scholarship students.

Minutes of the Club Meeting October 19, 2005

President Larry Barrick called the meeting to order at 7:10 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Pete gave the **Treasurer's Report**. Many membership renewals in the last month. Motion was made to approve the report and seconded. Report approved.

Secretary's report approved as printed in the Rocky Reader.

Show Report given by Gayle O'Riordon and Carla Burleson, Show Chairmen. Raffle income was successful. Club to supplement the earnings to make \$500 available to be given in scholarships to the two University recipients. Less income this year from the show, which is not unusual for missing a show last year. Income was down by about two thousand dollars from two years ago. Certificates were given to chairmen of programs. Special humorous awards given for recognition of effort and contribution. Certificates of appreciation given to show volunteer workers. Gayle and Carla willing to do a fifth show, unless someone else would do it. Ken and Margie Jewson gave recognition gifts to Gayle and Carla. Stranahan has beefed up their security system, and there is a question of whether we need the full expense of the security. Carla to discuss with the sheriff's Dept, and whether any alternate approach can be considered. She will ask the dealers for their preference. Question of whether we need the number of police, as many seemed to be clustered together, and not really roaming or keeping a widespread presence. They will check into it and get back to the membership. Anyone thinking of becoming show chairmen for 2007, should consider sitting in on committee meetings for the next show, so they know what all is expected.

Open House, Nov 5 & 6, report by Carla Burleson. Table sign up list reviewed. 21 tables have been reserved. Chetty and June will be in the back room. Rita and Nancy Grove will be teaching bead projects, and Luceille Burgy doing gem trees in the back room. Donated food needs to be brought in. If anyone is willing to take over Open House in May and November next year, they need to step up.

December Pot Luck will have food assignments in the Rocky Reader. Discussion as to whether we need a particular program.

Next month is **election of officers**. Slate of nominees presented by Harold Burleson. Nominees: President, Jim Leslie; Vice President, Michael Burcewicz; Secretary, Kathy Petersen; Treasurer, Patrick O'Riordon; Sergeant at Arms, Harold Burleson; One Board Member, Joe Motter, (three year term); Mike Mayers has two years remaining and Marshall Waters, one year remaining.

Field trip to Flint Ridge was successful and enjoyed by all.

Gardens: Still working with city to be included in Metro parks. Gardens always short from city taking money. Might be better off if we can affiliate with the Metro parks. Volunteer party coming up. Heralding the Holidays coming up the first weekend of the month. The metal crafter area is full with members selling.

Gemcrafters: Halloween/ Thanksgiving party on Nov 9, and Christmas party on the 14th of December. At the Dec. party, the gemcrafters will nominate and vote in the moderator. Open House show will be open, and free weekend for cutting. Need to show people around and talk about the club activities. Trying to get Janet Schroeder, Gardens president, to come over and visit the club activities, and we would like her to have an official invitation to come to the Christmas Party. Larry to send her an invitation. Third weekend of May will be next year's open house.

Next month is the **club auction**. Need to make about a thousand dollars to make up for part of show loss.

Membership: 37 members 1 jr.

Next RR December/January

Metalcrafter meeting on schedule according to the RR.

Sunshine: Mrs. Morgan moving into assisted living in Sylvania

Beaders: Last meeting in November, and adjourning for the winter

Faceteers: Next mtg at Don Ault's home


Craft Center: City wants to be done by the end of the year. Need to contact them to not be tearing things up during Heralding. Pete to check with them.

Raffle winner letter read, thanking us for her winnings.

Next month is election and auction.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.


submitted by Kathy Petersen, Secretary



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Cutting Stock.....Tools
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Equipment**
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654 Culley Rd
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Owned and Operated by
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Club members
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Minutes of the Club Meeting November 16, 2005

Larry Barrick called the meeting to order at 7 o'clock.

Pete gave the **treasurer's report**.

Election of Officers: Harold Burleson presented slate of candidates: President, Jim Leslie; Vice President, Michael Burcewicz; Treasurer, Linn Petersen; Secretary, Kathy Petersen; Sergeant at Arms, Harold Burleson; one open board member

Heralding the Holidays is the first weekend in December. Gardens working on the spring plant sale in May. If anyone wants to be a judge for the Festival of the Arts, there is a form to submit.

Gemcrafter's Christmas Party pot luck, is the second Wednesday of December. Moderator will be determined.

Beader's last meeting of the year is Monday, and participants will make a Christmas ornament.

Mike Mayer has arranged for a speaker in January. Professor from UT, and BG students will talk. Money from the show raffle will be presented to the University programs.

Advent calendars to support school trip to Germany for Adrian student (Andy Leslie) are available for purchase and were sold out.

Field Trips: none at this time.

Open House: Bad weather on Saturday may have slowed down the turn out. Tree limbs and wires were down in the park. Saturday was a good day, but Sunday was slow. Many conflicting activities in Toledo may have contributed to the low turn out.

Christmas Pot Luck is at the December meeting. For participating in the gift exchange, gifts should have red wrapping for ladies, men blue, children any color. 6 o'clock for the dinner.

Rocky Reader News letter deadline is next Tuesday

27 members and 1 junior in **attendance**

Craft center repairs still pending.

Larry gave a heartfelt farewell and expressed his gratitude for all the support and contributions of the members.

Moved and seconded for adjournment.

Club auction followed. Earnings \$719.

submitted by Kathy Petersen, club secretary

CLASSES

The following schedule is a listing of upcoming classes. To enroll, please **send the instructional fee to the instructor**. Fees must be received, at the latest, **one week prior to the class**. Refunds will be issued only if cancellations are received seven days prior to the class.

January 21, 2006, 10AM. Argentium™ Sterling Silver workshop. Instructor: Debra Hoffmaster. Fee \$40.00. In this workshop, students will have an opportunity to fuse, solder, anneal, forge and polish this new firescale-free, tarnish resistant, germanium alloy. The suitability of the alloy for Keum-boo, reticulation and other techniques will be discussed. Students should have a good grasp of basic metalsmithing techniques.

February 25, 2006, 10AM. Box clasp II. Instructor: Debra Hoffmaster. Fee \$20.00. In this class students will make a rectangular box clasp. Box clasp construction is not difficult but requires cutting and soldering skills.

Theлма Postlewaite's Family News

December Birthdays:

Maggie Fratilla	12-6
Terry Fratilla	12-11
Val Daniels	12-18
Merry Jo Delano	2-20
Robert Seske	12-21
Gary Kocher	12-24
Norman Laursen	12-26
Harriette Leeper	12-28
Joe Motter	12-29

Juniors:

Johnathan Heer	12-22
Bill Leslie	12-30

January Birthdays:

Hank Lewis	1-7
Angela Capuano	1-8
Tony Kaczmarek	1-9
Lucille Burgy	1-11
Suzanne Underwood	1-11
Carla Burleson	1-13
Paula Milkie	1-15
John Mennitt	1-21
Ronald Bielski	1-21
Nancy Mancuso	1-25
Robert Belcher	1-27
Mary Kay Frushour	1-30

New/Renewing Members:

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3120 Wendover Dr.
Toledo, OH 43606-1860

Quentin Skrabec 419-868-8249
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Maumee, OH 43537

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Changes in Directory Information:

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148 Curwood twallace72@bex.net
Holland, OH 43528

Anne Mills e-mail Brett4@prodigy.net

Tonia Pochay married Gene Wallace at the end of October and is now Tonia Wallace.
Congratulations! They have a family membership and may be reached at Gene's address.

Submitted by Lucille Burgy

GARDEN NEWS


Heralding the Holidays is December 2-4. Many of the Resident Organizations are participating in this event. It is a great opportunity to get out and see what the other RO's are doing and buy beautiful and unique handmade gifts. Hours for the event are Friday 5-9PM, Saturday 10-5PM and Sunday noon-5PM. There will be food vendors available with the addition, this year, of Wishbonz BBQ (pork and chicken). Friday night features luminaria which is not to be missed. The Blair house of Lithophanes is open Friday between 5 and 9PM, Saturday from 12 - 4PM and Sunday from 1 -4PM.

Garden Events:

Dec 2-4 **Heralding the Holidays**

January **Spectrum exhibit: Clayton Peterson**

FACETEERS

 **Note Location change:** The Faceteers will be meeting on the **second** Thursday of each month at **Don Ault's home**. For directions or more information on Faceteers, please contact Don Ault.

FIELD TRIPS

To be informed of future field trips, please contact Harold Burleson. Please be aware that many quarries now require up to date Mine Safety training for admission.

BEADERS

The beadars will not meet during the months of December, January and February.

Nancy Grove, Moderator

GEMCRAFTERS

The Gemcrafters will have their yearly meeting on 14 Dec 05. We will have a potluck and decide on leadership for the next year. Also talk about what we would like to do during the coming year as far as classes etc go. If there are different things that you want to know about lapidary arts, that is what the gemcrafters are there for.

The auction at the Nov meeting must have been a large success. All of the material was sold even with only 27 members (plus Mike) being there. It was great to see the club members bid on items to help keep up the funds of the club.

Also I did not know that all of the club members were from Mich. Who would have thought that a COOKIE with a Mich flag would be worth over 3 times as much as one with Ohio state flag. And that only because I got the **lowest bid** on the OSU cookie!! Maybe we will have to start looking for more Mich flags.

THANKS FOR ALL WHO CAME BROUGHT AND BOUGHT FROM THE CLUB MEMBERS AND
THOSE WHO AUCTIONED Chet King Jr., moderator

METALCRAFTERS

The metalcrafters will meet on two Sundays: Dec 18 and Jan 15 at 1:30PM and 4 Thursdays: Dec 8 & 22 and Jan 12 & 26 at 6:30PM. A workshop and a box clasp class are upcoming (see classes) It is never too soon to plan on attending/donating to the Metalcrafter auction in February. This is a silent auction, with contributions of jewelry, tools, materials, etc. from the metalcrafters. In the past, this auction has allowed us to buy a PMC kiln, drill press and a rolling mill. This year, the metalcrafters have their sights set on a hydraulic press.

Heralding the Holidays is December 2-4. Diane Klich, Scheran Newell, Harriet Neering and Debby Hoffmaster will be showing jewelry in the metalcraft area with Chet King and Ed Reynolds showing their wares in the Gemcrafter area. Come out and support the Resident Organizations' artists.

Deb Hoffmaster, moderator

WARNING ABOUT WORKING WITH ROCKS CONTAINING LEAD OR MERCURY

synopsis by Laura Dow

(This article highlights the potential hazards associated with working with any material whose composition is unknown)

Mr. Blaise Harper, a faceter, recently had a very bad experience with cutting stones containing lead. He shared this in an email reply to a posting of March 24, 2004 on the Faceter's List. The full article entitled, "Working With Lead or Mercury Containing Rocks" was printed with the author's permission, in the May/June, 2004 newsletter, The Crystal Gazer of the Mt. Clemens-Macomb County Gem & Lapidary Society. A synopsis of this article follows.

His article begins with, "Please, if you are considering cutting any rough containing lead, just don't do it." He cut three stones from a piece of unused, clean nuclear reactor window brick glass that he purchased on E-bay. Mr. Harper was attracted to the material due to its high refractive index. From this, he got three stones that were each close to 20 mm in diameter.

Mr. Harper's former job involved monitoring clean room specifications. For this reason, he was no stranger to the need for and methods of, using equipment in a very clean setting. For this task, he ran lots of water, kept his cutting desk and equipment very clean, and maintained good air circulation in the room. Despite his precautions, he estimated that had he cut only two more stones, he would not be here to talk about it.

Later, he noticed symptoms similar to sinusitis. Several doctors later, he got a report back from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), that he had a Class V level of lead poisoning. He measured at 65 micrograms per deciliter. Two more stones would have put him well over 100 which can result in permanent organ and/or brain damage. His illness was not yet at its peak though. He states, "I was getting worse and worse. It became like looking at the world through a very bent looking glass." Other symptoms included low energy levels and water retention. His treatment options were to receive chelation treatments intravenously at a hospital for several weeks at a cost of 20 to 40 thousand dollars, or to take oral chelation treatments instead. Research showed the oral chelation treatments to be superior, so that's what he opted for.

The treatments were not the end of his worries though. Lead is not easy to get out. The body sends it round and round to the liver, then the small intestine, into the blood, the tissues, etc. It takes aggressive treatment to finally get it out of the body entirely. According to Mr. Harper, "All in all, it has been a sobering experience It has made me approach faceting from a different viewpoint."

Now his faceting machine is set up with a laminar flow hood made out of 1/4 inch clear Plexiglass. There is a round hole used to suck the air out with a strong exhaust fan that vents outdoors. The entire workroom had to be decontaminated. He also no longer cuts anything containing lead. He notes, that "Nuclear reactor brick window glass is about 81% lead oxide or about 70% lead. And yes, as soon as you grind away on it, you are very likely being poisoned by lead!"

He points out that faceting machines are nearly the ideal way to poison oneself with these materials. The horizontal spinning disk grinds the rock into small, airborne particles that are then thrown up into the air by the vortex. This is most often aimed right at the nose of the faceter who is leaning over the project.

Mr. Harper states finally that, "some people who facet seem to believe that they have been immune to heavy metal poisoning. What is really happening is that inch by inch they are shortening their life and the quality of their life. This event was easily the most stupid thing that I have ever done in my life. I hope my experience and the telling of it will deter others from making the same mistake."

From The Stone Chipper, 7/04 via The Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Faceting Society Newsletter, 11/05

Rust is the worst enemy your lapidary equipment has. Lots of otherwise functional lapidary equipment gets tossed out every year because of rust damage. Now, finally, there is a product that lets you repair and restore even severe cases of rust-out. It is a paint called POR-15. (Call 1-800-457-6715 for a free catalog from Rustamotive Laboratories, Inc., in Morristown, N.J.) POR stands for "paint-over-rust" and that is exactly what you can do. Just get out all the rock dust and make sure there is no oily residue left on your equipment. Clean the metal with a wet SOS pad and rinse clean. Let it dry, and if there are any holes, stick a piece of masking tape on the underside. Paint on the POR-15 with a cheap brush, level the equipment, and let the POR-15 flow out smooth. POR-15 will close any holes nicely when it cures. This is a permanent fix., Rust will not penetrate POR-15. A pint of POR-15 should be more than enough for most water pans. It cures rock hard and shiny, but is meant to be an undercoat. Ultraviolet light (a. k. a.) will cause it to deteriorate. So scuff the surface of the POR-15 slightly with an SOS pad and Paint on a coat of enamel, and you are set for a long time. Via *The Pegmatite 11/00, Chats and Chips 2/05 & The Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Faceting Society Newsletter, 11/05*

There's a new sterling silver alloy out there - Argentium™ Sterling Silver

Traditional sterling silver is composed of 92.5% fine silver alloyed with copper. As such, it is succceptable to firescale, the dreaded reddish and/or grey copper oxides that form when traditional sterling is heated in the presence of oxygen.

Argentium™ Sterling Silver substitutes a small amount of germanium for some of the copper in the alloy. When heated, the germanium migrates to the surface of the piece and prevents oxygen in the environment from reaching the copper in the alloy. Sooo...NO Firescale!!! And, when properly heat treated, Argentium™ Sterling Silver is tarnish-resistant!

Like traditional sterling, Argentium™ Sterling Silver will form a dark layer of copper oxide after initial heating. Unlike traditional sterling, this is a surface-only layer that can be easily removed by pickling and will not return. It is also more ductile and malleable than traditional sterling silver making forging, raising and vessel construction easier with fewer annealings.

Argentium™ has a few differences that will be noticeable to the novice user. It melts and anneals at a lower temperature, conducts heat more poorly and retains heat longer than traditional sterling. Thus, it has a much paler color when properly annealed, cannot be quenched until the heat leaves the metal completely, solders more like gold than traditional sterling alloys and uses its own (lower melting point) solders.

Argentium™ Sterling Silver was developed by Peter Johns at Middlesex University and is marketed in the US by Stern-Leach. Currently a number of suppliers offer the material, notably Rio Grande, Hoover & Strong and Stuller. The metalcrafters will offer a workshop on Argentium™ Sterling Silver in January.

References:

Eid, Cynthia. SNAG News Technical article: Argentium Sterling Silver.
www.cynthiaeid.com/argentium_1-5.html

December

2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Heralding 5-9PM	3 The 10AM - 5PM
4 Holidays noon - 5PM	5	6	7 Gemcraft @ 7PM	8 Metalcraft @ 6:30PM Faceteers @ 7	9	10
11	12	13	14 Gemcraft Christmas Party/ elect moderator @7PM	15	16	17
18 Metalcraft @ 1:30	19	20	21 Club Christmas Party@ 6PM meeting to follow	22 Metalcraft @ 6:30PM Last chance to make a gift!!	23	24
25 Merry Christmas	26 Happy Hanukkah & Kwanza	27	28 Gemcraft @ 7PM	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

January

2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year	2	3	4 Gemcraft @7PM	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Gemcraft @ 7PM	12 Metalcraft @ 6:30PM Faceteers @ 7	13	14
15 Metalcraft @ 1:30	16	17	18 Club meeting @ 7PM	19	20	21 Argentium Silver workshop
22	23 Beaders @6:30	24	25 Gemcraft @7PM	26 Metalcraft @ 6:30PM	27	28
29	30	31				

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