



Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club

Volume 44(12)

December, 2007

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Heralding the Holidays is November 30, December 1 and 2. This is a great time to pick up Christmas gifts. Many of our fellow Resident organizations will be selling great gifts in their buildings or in the Conference Center. Come early because the best stuff sells out fast!

The December Club meeting begins at 6PM with a potluck.

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

If you want to join in the Christmas Gift Exchange, wrap your gift in **RED** if it is for a **woman**, **BLUE** for a **man** and **any other color for a child**.

Yes, we are back to publishing monthly!

To all the members who brought such great stuff to the Auction and also to those who had a great time bidding to see who would take it home.

thank you very much

With it raining all day and being just a lousy day to go anywhere, I was afraid that we would be sitting in an empty room, but like a good rockhounds, we know that rain only makes the stones take on a better shine.

May all you bought help you to enjoy the hobby more.
Ed and Chet

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Meeting Minutes October 17, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance

V.P. reported no program this month. November meeting will be election and December meeting will have pot-luck followed by the installation of officers.

Planning in January 2008 to have University scholarship recipient to sign in the notebook.

Ken Jewson was our volunteer to go to the engraver, for badges, plaques, etc. He is retiring. **Steve Shimatzki** volunteered for the position.

Carla Burleson will be providing drinks for November meeting. Suzanne Shimatzki volunteered to bring refreshments.

November is the club auction. Bring items for auction.

Auction Debbie received an e-mail about auction of estate of a faceter/rockhound. Sunday November 11, 11:00 a.m. 5939 County Rd. C, Delta OH. For more information Nelda Hunter 419-822-3321.

Secretary's report -Sept. minutes, board meeting minutes will be in the next Rocky Reader.

Rocky Reader Debbie agreed to start publishing Rocky Reader, monthly, starting in December.

Treasurer's report -Check book balanced. Some members still have not paid their club dues. Six months ago CD was switched to another CD. Turned out to be a good deal. September show was good. Show bills are all paid. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Old Business Mike Mayers reported that nominations are needed for President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Sgt. At Arms, and one board member. November meeting will be the election.

Show Jerri Heer gave final report on 2007 show. Will change caterer, Dave's Home Cooked Foods. Gained new members from the show. Members who have suggestions or ideas on show bring them to Jerri.

New Business President Leslie gave information on Board meeting. Recognized Lucille Burgey as new life member.

TBG-ROC is looking for a volunteer for President. They meet the second Wednesday at noon. This will be in November. See Chet King for details.

Gemcraft-Will have auction in November. Bring items for auction. December 4, will have a Christmas party. Elect a leader for 2008. Discuss safety rules for shop. Heralding the Holidays will be November 30 to December 2. There will be free open cutting and will be selling items.

Beaders-Meet at 6:30 p.m. on 3rd Monday. Last meeting until March 2008.

Membership-32 members present.

Metalcraft-If you are going to be late for class please call either Debbie Hoffmaster, Kathy Petersen, or Tanya Wallace. 1st and 3rd Sunday at 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Thursday at 6:30 p.m. – 8:30. p.m. Beginners should call one of the leaders to schedule a session, because of large attendance of members.

Sunshine-Flossie Dewey was in the hospital because of a fall.

Field trips-One trip November 19-21 at Standish MI. Contact Harold Burleson for more information.

Open House -is November 17 and 18. Set-up is Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. on the 16th.

Mike Mayers reported that John Kalinoski will run for the at large position and Ruth Jacobs is interested in the VP position. November is the election, December installation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by John Capuano, Club Secretary

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Board Meeting Minutes October 16, 2007

Attendance: Linn Petersen, Larry Barrick, Steve Shimatzki, James Leslie, Harold Burleson, Carla Burleson, Jerri Heer, John Capuano, Mike Mayers

Absent: Debby Hoffmaster, Joe Motter

Ed Reynolds requested to talk to board. Question-When is payment due for advertisement in Rocky Reader. Answer-Fiscal year begins January 1 and ends December 31, so anytime in the month of January.

Show Discussion: Show-Flashing advertisement sign was great. Friday and Saturday were slow days. Sunday was an excellent day.

Mike Mayers-Nomination for a board member was still open.

Debby Hoffmaster -Put in a request that the club act as a back-up for Heralding for the Holidays by pledging funds. Steve Shimatzki moved motion, seconded by Jerri Heer. Motion passed. She also made a suggestion that Lucille Burgey be made a life member of our club. Carla Burleson moved motion. Second Mike Mayers. Motion passed.

President Leslie discussed a meeting with the **TBG director**. Concerns were about communication issues and to complain politely about publishing e-mails in Rocky Reader.

Treasurer Petersen reported money-wise the check book balances, and that Jerri Heer and Susan Shimatzki had a profitable show.

Bowling Green University has lapidary equipment for student use. Asking if a club member would instruct students how to operate. Was agreed by board members for University to make arrangements with Chet King and have students come to our clubhouse for instructions on lapidary equipment

Mike Gogel has club's history stored at his home and requests that the **club reclaim the club's records**. Steve Shimatzki will contact Mike to retrieve materials. We may need to buy some containers to hold materials, but amount need is uncertain.

Request: Jerri Heer said she has club envelopes and needed writing paper with club's letterhead. President Leslie supplied the paper.

Carla Burlison moved to adjourn. Larry Barrick seconded. **Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

Submitted by John Capuano, Club Secretary

Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Meeting Minutes November 21, 2007

President began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary- the Rocky Reader will be issued every month starting with December.

Treasurer- more members paid their dues. The small raffle that is held after the monthly meetings is doing quite well. Expenses, the propane bill has gone up a lot for the budget. Club will put deposit down next month for the Stranahan, and also for the scholarship fund.

Gemcrafters-will have their Christmas party on the 4th. Also will discuss what they plan to do next year.

ROC - If anyone wants to take a seat on the ROC (resident council), the council is looking for volunteer officers.

Beaders-will start up again in March 2008.

Faceters-no report

Metalcraft- no meetings on December 2 and 27. There are openings for making chains in May for members who are interested.

Sunshine-no report

Field trip- no new trips until after the 1st of 2008. The fieldtrip to Lime City was quite successful.

Show-No report

Open House- open house went well. Jerri Heer will be taking over for the May openhouse.

December meeting will be the Christmas potluck .

Old Business -no report

New Business -December meeting will be installation of officers. President- James Leslie, V.P.- Ruth Jacobs, Secretary- John Capuano, Treasurer-Steve Shimatzki, Sgt.-At-Arms-Carla Burlison, At large board member (3-year term)-John Kalinoski.

Membership-26 adults, 2 visitors, 1 junior.

Linn Petersen motioned to adjourn meeting. Ed Reynolds seconded, passed.

Club's held its annual auction after the meeting.

Submitted by John Capuano, Club Secretary

CLASSES

The following schedule is a listing of upcoming classes. To enroll, please **send the all fees to the instructor**. Fees must be received, at the latest, **two weeks prior to the class**.

January 26, 2008. 10AM. Colored copper jewelry. Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. Fee \$20.00.

Learn to use colored pencils on copper to dress up your jewelry.

February 23, 2008. 10AM. PMC bottles. Instructor Tonia Wallace. Fee \$80.00. Learn to make small, hollow bottles from metal clay. Limit 8.

March 29, 2008. 10AM. Silver spoon jewelry. Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. Fee \$20.00. Learn to make jewelry from old spoons. Limit 6, 3 spots remaining.

April 26 & 27. 10AM. Wire wrapping. Instructor Debra Hoffmaster. Fee \$40.00. Learn the art of wire wrapping with four beginning projects: earrings, a cross, a bracelet and a cabochon pendant.

May 17, 2008. 10AM. Beez to Butterflies bracelet. Instructor Kathy Petersen. Fee \$60.00. This is a chain maille bracelet, that looks like side to side Byzantine links but is a much less complicated pattern than byzantine. Fees deadline is three weeks before class, but these classes have been selling out 6 MONTHS in advance, so get your money to Kathy, as soon as you know that you want in!

November 15, 2008. 10AM. Vertebrae bracelet. Instructor Kathy Petersen. Fee \$60.00. This is a modified 4 in 1 chain maille bracelet, with an inner ring, also called vertebrae pattern.

Thelma Postlewaite's Family News

December Birthdays:

Dean Hoard 12-1
David Kuhner 12-3
Elie Ghanime 12-12
Val Daniels 12-18
Phyllis Schoenfelt 12-19
Merry Jo Delano 12-20
Janet Moore 12-23

Emily Drake 12-26
Martha Drake 12-26
Norman Laursen 12-26
Joe Motter 12-29

Juniors:

Johnathan Heer 12-22
Bill Leslie 12-30

On October 31, Terry Fratilla died. He joined our club in 2002. On November 19, Ed Reynolds' Father died. Submitted by Lucille Burgy, Sunshine

GARDEN NEWS

Volunteer Hours - If you help out at open houses, Heralding, plant sales, etc., Please **MAKE SURE that you fill out a volunteer form.** These are **available from Chet** and may be turned in to him. Volunteer forms are collected 4 times each year for the months/quarters JanFebMar/ AprMayJune/ JulyAugSept/ OctNovDec/.

FACETEERS

Faceteers meet on the second Thursday of the month at members' houses. Contact Don Ault or Dick Bower for more information.

FIELD TRIPS

Contact Harold Burleson for details about this great collecting opportunity or to be informed of future field trips. Many quarries now require up to date Mine Safety training for admission.

BEADERS

The Beaders are off for the winter months. See you in March! Nancy Grove, Moderator

GEMCRAFTERS

Gemcrafters will not meet on Wed December 26. Chet King, Jr., moderator

METALCRAFTERS

Due to other commitments, the metalcrafters will NOT meet on December 2nd or December 27. That leaves only two meetings in December: Thursday Dec 13 and Sunday Dec 16. We have no special activities planned for December so it is a perfect time to work on those Christmas gifts.

We would also like ask the new metalcrafters to call or e-mail Debby Hoffmaster to schedule a time to work on the beginning pendant. We have been fairly overloaded with new members wanting to get started and, because we want you to have the attention you deserve, we would like to hold the number of beginners to two/meeting. We believe that the scheduling should accomplish this for us.

Deb Hoffmaster, moderator

Coming Events from Chetty King's Flyer Table

December 16 (Sunday), 2007, 3:00 pm. Jarrod Burks, Ph.D., Director of Geophysical Surveys and Research at Ohio Valley Archaeological Consultants Ltd., Columbus, OH. **"Hopewell**

Earthworks and Settlements in Southern Ohio Rediscovering the Past with High-Tech Equipment." Toledo Museum of Art, Little Theatre , 2445 Monroe St., Toledo.

July 10 - July 13, 2008. Agate Conference - the largest agates-only event ever held in the US. Weis Earth Science Museum, The University of Wisconsin - Fox Valley, Menasha, Wisconsin Friday -Sunday 10-6; Monday 10-5. Adults \$3.00, children 21 & under Free. For more information see www.weismuseum.org or e-mail fox-wesm@uwc.edu 920-832-2925.

ORIENTING OBSIDIAN, LABRADORITE AND SPECTROLITE
Jim Small. Small Wonders Lapidary

Obsidian:

Orienting Obsidian depends on what type of obsidian and what you are doing with it. If you are polishing flats. the best way to orient rainbow sheen obsidian is 10-15 degrees off the plane of the parallel bands. If you are capping it, cut exactly parallel to the bands. Solid sheen is always cut parallel to the bands or the effect is lost or diminished. Fire obsidian sometimes loses its fire sheen when cut parallel and should be cut after careful examination of the best angles for viewing the fire which is actually in between bands. Other types of obsidian look different when cut at different angles to the bands; midnite lace is one such example, where you should experiment until you find the "look" that pleases you.

Labradorite/spectrolite':

Here is a procedure for orienting labradorite/spectrolite. It will also do a credible job with moonstone. With most sunstone (India and upstate NY) orientation is simpler because you will just orient for the schiller (metallic flecks).

- 1) Set a student desk lamp; what we used to call a high-intensity lamp. They usually have a switch for two brightnesses. and they always have clear glass bulbs (this is important).
- 2) Fix a high shelf where you can put your lamp. so that you can adjust the arm to have the beam of light shine straight down onto a flat surface which needs to be no higher than thigh-high. A stool or flat-top crate will work fine.
- 3) Set a tin, like one of the tins which Danish butter cookies come in; it should be anywhere from 8" or ">" in diameter up to 12" in diameter. and between 2" and 3" deep. Fill this tin about 3/4 full with sand or fresh kitty-litter or any other finely granular material.
- 4) Set a really good quality water-proof marker. It should be at least 6" long. and ought to have a relatively fine (no more than 1/8") point. Round-nose markers work fine as long as they haven't been squished by pressing too hard.
- 5) Stand on the opposite side of the stool/crate from the shelf with the lamp. /Adjust your stance and the lamp so that you can look straight down on the middle of the tin while the lamp shines its beam straight down above the top of your head. without your head occluding the beam.
- 6) Place a piece of mono-crystalline labradorite in-the granular material-in the tin. so that at least 2/3 of it is above the supporting grains. If you have polycrystalline pieces of labradorite you either have to cut them apart along the crystal boundaries. or go for the largest or showiest crystal, and trash the others.
- 7) Slowly rotate the labradorite until you see a flash of color; once you locate a flash slowly spin the piece until you have the very brightest flash showing right on top. After you have the brightest surface centered rest your permanent marker on the top edge of the tin. and drag it slowly around the piece. leaving a mark all of the way around. This mark should be parallel to the top flash.
- 8) Slice your crystal parallel to the mark to cut slabs which will produce finished cabs with a broad color flash over their top surface.

Some labradorite will behave like moonstone. and have the capability of producing a floating eye in a cut cab. To test whether your stone has this capability take the following additional steps.

- 9) Place the stone on its side. so that the marker line is straight up toward your eye. Slowly rotate the stone. keeping the line in vertical orientation. When you see "another flash (it will be distinctly weaker than the broad flash which you already marked), test its location by slowly revolving the stone from left to right or vice versa until you have the best flash firmly centered on the top of the stone. It should be somewhere on the first line; if it isn't, start over from the beginning.

- 10) After the second flash is firmly centered. draw another line in the same fashion as the first one. The two lines will not meet at a 90 degree angle. but nearly so.
- 11) Slice the crystal parallel to the second line to produce a floating eye in your finished stone.

Now. to make things really interesting. there is some labradorite from Labrador that not only has labradorescence. but it also has schiller. In effect, it is labradorite/ sunstone. If you have any of this material you will see the small metallic flecks show up when you do the first orientation. If you have this material. don't bother to look for the floating eye because the schiller is much rarer as an optical phenomenon.

You can get into really fancy tricks with the orientation if you want to. like having pendant stones that flash only when they are hanging on someone. Labradorite is not recommended as a ring stone, nor a bracelet stone: it is much too soft and tender for anything that rugged. Also, since it is a feldspar it has perfect cleavage in two directions; a sharp rap will cleave it!

From *The Glacial Drifter*. 50(8):5 November 2007 via *GEM CUTTERS NEWS* 11-06

A New Arthropod from Early Cambrian of China – *Guangweicaris* Luo et al. 2007 *Acta Geol Sini* Vol. 81(1)

100 well preserved specimens of a new arthropod are described from the Early Cambrian Guanshan Fauna in Kunming, Yunnan, China. The new arthropod is named



Anomalocarid

Guangweicaris spinatus for the village close to the site and for the Latic 'caris' for shrimp. The species 'spinatus' refers to the spines on all tergites of the abdomen and thorax. These spines may have played a deterrent role against anomalocarids in the community. The telson may have helped to steer the animal. The fossils were often partial and did show that they tended to separate with the abdomen found separate. They are often found curved indicating that they were active swimmers. They are often found with trilobites and other arthropods.

From *The Rockpile*, November, 2007 via *Earth Science News*, October 2007.



Guangweicaris spinatus

Untested Shop Tips:

Another way to **stabilize porous stones**. Porous stones may be stabilized by immersing in an air-tight glass jar containing a well-mixed solution of 1 pint acetone plus the complete contents of both resin and hardener epoxy tubes. Soak well-dried stones for at least 4 days, then remove the stones and allow to dry completely. Polish. From *The Rockpile*, November, 2007

Cleaning silver: Use an aluminum pie plate or a pyrex dish with a sheet of aluminum foil in the bottom. Add very hot (almost boiling water). Lay your jewelry so that it's on the aluminum part of the surface. Liberally sprinkle with washing soda (Sodium carbonate) or baking soda (Sodium bicarbonate - works but slower) . Allow to bubble away. Rinse and repeat if necessary. ... From www.Ganoksin.com/orchid/archives

Ed Reiber on **dopping cabs** at the SDMG General Meeting on 10/12/07: I never had a cabochon come off the dop stick. Here is how I do it. First, I dip the end of my dop stick in melted dop wax in the dop pot, and pick up a good glob. Next, I press the wax-laden end of the dop stick against the metal table top and form the dop wax into a cone shape. The cone gets broader towards the end of the dop stick, to better support the cabochon. After the dop wax cools down, I apply some double-sided sponge tape to the top of the dop wax cone, trim the sponge tape to match the diameter of the top of the dop wax cone, and press the cabochon onto the sponge tape. I am now ready to grind and sand, and the sponge tape acts a little bit like a shock absorber, which is a good thing.

After I have finished polishing my cab, it's time to remove the cab from the dop stick. I use a knife to separate the cab from the dop stick, and to scrape off most of the sponge tape from the cab and the dop stick. I coat the back of the cab with paint thinner and use a razor blade to remove the rest of the sponge tape. To get the residue off the dop stick, two paint thinner and scraping treatments are required, 30 minutes apart.

Template Tip #1: Here's how to make sure the front and back sides of your cabs both have a good pattern. Find drafting templates you like - clear plastic is good - and buy two identical templates. Get a narrow strip of 1/4" thick plastic or wood, and glue it to the top of one template, clear over at the left edge. Now apply glue to the underside of the second template, clear over at the left edge, and stick it on top of that narrow 1/4" thick piece of plastic. Once this rig dries, you can slide a slab in between the two templates, move the slab around to find a desirable spot and mark both sides of the slab for your cabochon - and the marks will line up like they should. From *The Pegmatite* LXI (3) November 2007

Template Tip #2: You can make your own clear Plexiglas templates. Old storm doors or windows are a good source of material. Plexiglas can be scribed, bent and snapped, no need to saw. Finish shaping and smooth the edges with a file or sandpaper. The advantage of using these cabochon-shaped pieces of plastic is that as you move them around on the material you want to mark, you can see through the Plexiglas and easily adjust to get the pattern you want. From *The Pegmatite* LXI (3) November 2007 via *Petrified Digest* 2/98 & *Rock Rollers* 8/98

Conquering swarf: Swarf is that milky liquid you get when you cut cabochons or facet gemstones. Although it appears to be harmless, swarf can be deadly to your plumbing system and lapidary equipment if not handled properly.

When you grind rocks to make cabochons or faceted stones, you're removing tiny bits of the rock and carrying them away from your work with water. When the water evaporates, the tiny rock bits are left behind as a sort of concrete gunk. Over time, this gunk will harden like concrete. So, how do you tame swarf? Never, never, ever dispose of your swarf in your plumbing system. Don't pour it down a sink or toilet, because eventually that gunk will harden and narrow your pipes. Because it's concrete-like when hardened, it will be almost impossible to remove! Instead take your swarf outside to a non-important part of your garden and dump it there. Or if there is no garden handy, allow the swarf to settle in the bottom of a bucket for a day or two, then carefully pour off the now clear water, scoop out the swarf, put it in a plastic bag and toss it in the trash. From *Pegmatite* LXI (2) October 2007, via *Gem Cutters News* 11/84 & *AFMS Newsletter* 10/07

Unsticking stuck stones: The standard method for separating stones that have been epoxied together, such as doublets or triplets, has long been to soak the stones in alcohol. However, this sometimes doesn't work. If the epoxy joint is a year or more old, alcohol soaks do very little. If the epoxy job is relatively new, a rather strange thing may happen. A long soak will release the epoxy that has been bonding the layers together, but the stones may be broken in the process. This is due to the contraction and expansion within the material being broken down by the alcohol.

Heat is probably the best method of separating doublets or triplets. While the melting point of epoxy is rather high, it is not beyond the dopping stove temperature. With due care, this method can be used even on such heat-sensitive stones as precious opal. Simply set the doublet or triplet on the dopping stove until it is too hot to handle without gloves. Then (using gloves) pick it up and slide the layers apart with even finger pressure. Waste no time as the piece cools quickly. After sliding the sections apart, cool everything slowly to prevent breakage. When cool, drop in vinegar or alcohol for a final cleanup. From *Pegmatite* LXI (2) October 2007, via *The Agatizer* 3/98 & *Breccia* 10/99

December

2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Heralding	1 Heralding
2 Heralding NO Metalcraft	3	4	5 Gemcraft @ 7PM	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Gemcraft @ 7PM	13 Metalcraft @ 6:30PM Faceteers @ 7	14	15
16 Metalcraft @ 1:30	17	18	19 Club potluck @ 6	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 NO Gemcraft	27 NO Metalcraft	28	29
30	31					

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