



# Rocky Reader

The Monthly Newsletter Of The  
**Toledo Gem And Rockhound Club**

Volume 45(1)

January, 2008

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oundclub.com

## **Scholarships and Gems in Ancient Egypt:**

The January club meeting will feature the presentations of the scholarship raffle proceeds to representatives of Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo. We anticipate several recent scholarship awardees will also be present. Dr James Harrell of UT will be speaking on ancient Egyptian gems. He always gives an enjoyable and informative talk so mark 16 Jan 2008 on your calendar and come to the club meeting.

## **Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club Meeting Minutes December 19, 2007**

Gem and Rockhound members had their Christmas party before the start of the monthly meeting.

**Officers** - Mike Mayers introduced members who will take office for the year 2008.

The slate of officers are: President Jim Leslie, V. P. Ruth Jacobs, Secretary John Capuano, Treasurer Steve Shimatzki, Sgt. At Arms Carla Burleson, At Large board member John Kolonoski ( 3 Yrs.), Harold Burleson board member.

**Rocky Reader** - Debbie Hoffmaster explained the Rocky Reader will be late.

**Metalcraft**-No meeting until January.

**Gemcrafter**-Shop closed. If you need to finish a project call Chet King.

**Faceters**-No report

**Beaders**-No report

**Sunshine**-Doris Wood passed away on December 15, 2007 at age 91 yrs. Grace Hessler also passed away.

**Fieldtrips**-May be one in March.

**Old business** -no report

**New business** -Linn Petersen received a plaque by President Leslie. Jim Harrel will be at the January meeting to receive a check for the scholarship.

**Membership**-30 adults and 5 juniors.

**Meeting ended** at 7:30 p.m.

## 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 2-9, 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

### January birthdays:

Vicki Wolf	1-5
Kelsey Goetting	1-5
Paula Milke	1-5
Hank Lewis	1-7
Angela Capuano	1-8

Tony Kaczmarek	1-9
Lucille Burgy	1-11
Suzanne Underwood	1-11
Carla Burleson	1-13
Mary Stahl	1-13
Ronald Bielski	1-21
Nancy Mancuso	1-25

We also note the December passing of three friends of the club: Doris Wood at age 91, Dot and her late husband produced many slate etchings, some of which were sold in the not too distant past to earn some money for the club; Grace Hessler, former editor of Rocky Reader and faceteer; and Terry Fratilla, a relatively recent member of the club. They will all be missed.

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

The gemcrafters meet on Wednesdays (except the third) at 7PM in the craft center. Chet can give classes on any lapidary topic. If there is something that you are interested in learning, contact him.

Chet King, Jr., moderator

### METALCRAFTERS

The **class season is upon us**. We have five upcoming classes: coloring on copper, PMC bottles, silver spoon jewelry, wire wrapping and beez to buterflies bracelet(see classes). Our **regular sessions continue** of the first and third Sundays at 1:30 and the second and fourth Thursdays at 6:30. We ask that **those members who have never attended**, please call or e-mail Debby to schedule a three meeting slot to complete their instructional pendant.

Finally, the **metalcrafter silent auction** is coming in February. This is how we finance our tool purchases. Many of the tools we have available for your use (replacement desk lamps, hydraulic press, dies & formers for hydraulic press, anvils, a balance, piercer's pleasure & portable bench pins, a burr set, a storage cabinet, disc cutters, a drill press, a pmc kiln, mandrels, pliers, replacement jeweler's saws, a bench shear, a spoon stake and a vibratory tumbler) were purchased with funds from this auction which was begun in 2002.

We **accept donations of metals, tools, jewelry, gemstones, beads, and other jewelry components** for this auction. It is silent, which means that bidders add their bids to a slip of paper attached to the item and the item remains on the table until the auction closes at 7:45. At that time, the high bidder may remove the item from the table and pay for it. **You place a minimum bid** on the things that you donate and, **if that bid is not met, you get your donation back**. Many members like to have pieces created by other members, so jewelry and other "created" pieces are welcome.

Deb Hoffmaster, moderator

### Coming Events from Chetty King's Flyer Table

**January 2008** There may be a lecture at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH sometime during January. As of 12/29, there was no more information available. Check [www.eescience.utoledo.edu/toledo\\_society/](http://www.eescience.utoledo.edu/toledo_society/) for updates.

**February 8 (Friday), 2008, 7:30 pm**, Regine Schulz, Ph.D., Curator of Ancient Art at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, MD. **"Kerma, Kush and Meroe The Kingdoms of Ancient Nubia."** 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](http://www.weismuseum.org) or e-mail [fox-wesm@uwc.edu](mailto:fox-wesm@uwc.edu) 920-832-2925.

**Instructions for the use of a Dop Pot** From: <http://www.therockshed.com/instructions4.html>

The dop pot and wax in conjunction with a dop stick is the method used to attach a stone to a stick so that you can hold and control a preformed stone to grind and shape a cabochon.. The dop stick is most commonly



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made from a wooden dowel of various diameters approximately 4" in length. The steps to achieve this are as follows.

1. If the Dop Pot is new, add dop wax to the pot as per the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Clean and warm the stones to be ground on the table of the dop heater
3. When the stone and dop wax is warmed place the dop stick in the wax and spin and move around until you have enough wax gathered on the dop stick to hold the stone.
4. Push the dop stick down on the stone and shape the wax to the back of the stone, have enough wax on the stick to make a good solid backing for your stone. You can shape the wax with your fingers by having a container of cold water near, wetting your fingers and shaping the hot wax. Keep in mind that the wax is very hot and will burn your fingers if you do not keep them wet while shaping the wax. Or use another damp or wet object to shape the wax such as a knife.
5. If you are unsure of the bond set the stone and dop stick on the heater for a few more minutes to allow the wax to bond to the stone. Allow the stone and dop stick to cool at room temperature and test to make sure that the stone is securely bonded to the stick.
6. You are now ready to grind, sand shape and polish the surface of your cabochon. To easily remove the stone from the dop stick after your cabochon is complete put it in a freezer for a few minutes and it will easily pop off of the stick.

Cautions to take note of:

1. Wax is hot and will burn your fingers, be sure to keep your fingers wet with cold water when conforming the wax to the back of the stone.
2. Wear Safety Glass's to protect your eyes from flying objects should the stone happen to fly from your dop stick when you are grinding and sanding.
3. Follow all safety precautions as per instructions with the machines you are using.
4. When you are polishing or sanding your stone too much heat generated from the sanding or polishing operation may damage the stone and can soften the wax and cause the stone to release from the dop stick.

**Instructions for drilling holes in small stones for pendants** From: <http://www.therockshed.com/instructions4.html>

Since it is easy to ruin a diamond bit with too much heat you must use light pressure and keep the stone wet by either dipping the stone in a bowl of water frequently or by mounting the stone in a small, shallow container of water with clay to hold it while drilling. To drill a hole in a stone, it is usually easier to use a small diamond burr to start the hole in the stone where you want to drill the hole, This makes a small indent so that it is easier to start the wire drill. Use the wire drill with light pressure in up and down motions until you are through the rock. Use caution when you are about to go through the other side so that you don't chip the stone when it comes through the other side. Sometimes it is better to drill from the other side when you get close to coming out the other side.

Note: Many factors figure in to the time it takes to drill a hole. In hard agate to drill 1/4" to 3/8" it may take 5 minutes or more where as in softer rock it can probably be done in 2 minutes or so. The other hard to determine factor is number of holes you can achieve per bit. Again, the hardness of the rock you are drilling, the heat generated if you overdue on pressure or too little cooling water all figure in to the number of holes. Considering those factors, probably you can expect 2 to 12 in hard material and more in soft material.

**Follow the manufacturers safety suggestions** when using equipment. Always **wear eye protection** when using lapidary equipment. **Use caution** with electricity and water.

**The Basics of using a lapidary cabbing machine for polishing rock** From: <http://www.therockshed.com/instructions4.html>

Although there are many varieties of capping and rock polishing machines the basics of their use is similar.

**Carbide Machines** - Most lapidary machines using the carbide wheels are usually set up with two carbide wheels of different carbide grits. Green carbide wheels work best for lapidary work. Usually 80 or 100 grit for the coarse or rough grinding on your cabochon or specimen and 200 grit for the touching up and more precise shaping of the stone. All of the machines have or will need a system for keeping the wheels and your stone wet as you sand and grind. Usually this is accomplished by a gravity feed water system and valves to each wheel or a small pump which sprays water on the wheel. If you are cutting cabochons or polishing small agates you will probably need to dip the stone on a dip stick for better control before proceeding to the sanding step. Most lapidary machines will be set up with 1 or 2 rubber expando wheels for using carborundum belts. These wheels allow you to easily change belts when the machine is shut down and they expand to hold the belts tight so they don't slip when it is running. These belts can be purchased in many grit sizes for your various needs. Probably the most common ones would be a 220 grit for the next step after the 200 carbide wheel and then a 400 grit for the fine sanding and then on to a 600 for the final sanding (tip - sometimes a worn out 400 will serve the same purpose as the 600 grit belt). The last and final step on most machines would be a flat polishing disc which mounts on the threaded end of the arbor on the machines. Usually these will have a soft rubber pad to which you attach a leather or felt pad for the final polishing of the stone. The final process then would be to dampen the polishing pad with water, mix a small amount of your favorite polish in a slurry and add to the pad and apply your dipped and ready to polish stone to the wheel with light pressure. After only a brief amount of time you can admire the beauty of your nicely polished cabochon or polished agate or stone.

**Diamond Machines** - Most lapidary machines using Diamond wheels are set up with two diamond grinding wheels of different grit sizes (usually 100 and 200 grit. Usually 80 or 100 grit for the coarse grinding-shaping on your cabochon or specimen and 200 grit for the touching up and more precise shaping of the stone. All of the machines have or will need a system for keeping the wheels and your stone wet as you sand and grind. Usually this is accomplished by a gravity feed water system and valves to each wheel or a small pump which sprays water on the wheel. If you are cutting cabochons or polishing small agates you will probably need to dip the stone on a dip stick for better control before proceeding to the sanding step. Most diamond lapidary machines will be set up with 1 or more rubber expando wheels for using diamond belts. These wheels allow you to easily change belts when the machine is shut down and they expand to hold the belts tight so they don't slip when it is running. Most machines have a series of diamond belts from 400 to 3000 grit which will be used for the final sanding or your stone or cabachon. The last and final step on most machines would be a flat polishing disc which mounts on the threaded end of the arbor on the machines. Usually these will have a soft rubber pad to which you attach polishing pads of finer grit diamond to achieve the final polishing of the stone (usually from 8,000 to 50,000 grit). After only a brief amount of time you can admire the beauty of your nicely polished cabochon or polished agate or stone.

**Other Important Notes:** **Safety glasses** are always important when working around equipment. **Make sure your machines are plugged into a safe ground fault outlet** to help protect yourself since these machines run water. Even though you are grinding and sanding with wet wheels you should **consider the use of a dust mask**, especially when grinding and sanding some materials such as some copper ores and especially malachite which can be toxic.

**Use caution in the polishing stage** as when the polishing pad begins to dry out the stone will begin to slightly pull against the pad and too much heat generated could cause the stone to fracture or come off of the dip stick. We use a small spray bottle filled with water to moisten the pad occasionally if needed during the polish.

**Some suggestions for beginning jewelry projects** From the orchid Archives [www.ganoksin.com](http://www.ganoksin.com)

1. A SS 12 or 14ga twisted wire ring. It starts with sizing one's finger, figuring the length of wire, bending in half, twisting, and rolling flat. Don at The Charles Belle Studio
2. Pierced, stamped or Textured cuff bracelet
3. Pierced, stamped or textured earrings
4. Pierced and soldered pin. A small piece of copper sheet that the student pierces. A small sawn shape of sheet brass is sweat soldered on, the edges filed, surfaces sanded and buffed. A simple safety pin back made of brass wire is soldered onto the back. Marilyn Smith
5. The Architecture Bracelet. Looking around your room, or your house, or your street, pierce out objects that you see around you. Connect them together with a flexible cold connection. One person did the eight chairs in their dining room. Another did their car, sectioned into pieces. When the bracelet moved, it looked like the car was on a bumpy road. Another did Superbowl Sunday, a TV, bowl of popcorn, beer bottle, their cat and the TV remote! It was really funny. Karen Christians, Metalworx
6. Woven-texture earrings or bracelet. Cut silver, copper, or brass into squares and using quarter inch fencing material, hammer a pattern into the squares. (Don't use your good hammer for this.) Now, drill holes in two of the four corners and connect with large-ish jump rings (or spring rings). You can add pre-made chain between the squares, hang squares, circles or triangles down from the main chain. Squiggle wire and flatten it, drill a hole in one end and hang those down from the main chain. kathi parker
7. Sunflower pin. Forge the petals and solder to a center with a bezel-set cab. Judy M. Willingham
8. Woven bracelet. Weave thin strips, roll them through the rolling mill and rivet catches on. Hammer the edges gently to fan the ends out. Linda B.

**Why the big animals went down in the pleistocene-was it just the climate?**

Kara LeBeau, GSA Staff Writer <http://www.geosociety.org> <http://fossilweb.com/news.htm>

There wasn't anything special about the climate changes that ended the Pleistocene. They were similar to previous climate changes as recorded in deep sea cores. So what tipped the scale and caused the extinction?

Russell Graham, who has been working on climate models for Pleistocene extinction for almost 30 years, looked for triggers in a threshold effect that did not require a unique climate change. Graham, Chief Curator at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, will present his research on Wednesday, November 7, at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

"The end Pleistocene climate change, especially the Younger Dryas [a sudden cold period], was a trigger that tipped the balance," he explained. "Also, the climate model needed to answer the question of why big animals--mammoth, mastodons, ground sloths, etc., were the primary ones to go extinct and not the small ones. The answer to this question is the relationship between geographic range and body size. The larger an animal, the more real estate or geographic range it needs to support viable populations, especially in harsh environments like those of the Pleistocene.... Therefore, if the geographic range of animals decreased through time then their probability of extinction would increase with time."

Graham successfully tested his hypothesis by using a computer database of fossil ice age mammal sites linked with a geographic information system to map changes in the distribution of species throughout time.

"This is one of the first models that does not require a unique climate change at the end of the Pleistocene. To my knowledge it is one of the first to look at geographic range changes of a large number of mammal species as the primary driving factor of the extinction."

**Whale Cousin Described** (Reporting by Julie Steenhuisen, Editing by Maggie Fox and Sandra Maler) [http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071220/ts\\_nm/whales\\_fossil\\_dc;\\_ylt=Aj9Xh4ggOljJ2xQ8bsDehT\\_57hMgF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20071220/ts_nm/whales_fossil_dc;_ylt=Aj9Xh4ggOljJ2xQ8bsDehT_57hMgF)

In the search for a missing evolutionary link to modern whales, scientists have come up with an unlikely land cousin -- a raccoon-sized creature with the body of a small deer.

Prior molecular studies have proposed the hippo as the closest land relative of today's whales, but researchers reporting in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday suggest a four-footed creature from India known as *Indohyus*, which probably hid in water in times of danger.

Scientists have long known that whales had ancestors that walked on land. Now a team lead by Hans Thewissen of Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy have pieced together a series of intermediate fossils that trace the whale's evolutionary journey from land to sea. Thewissen and his team studied the structure and composition of hundreds of fossils of *Indohyus*, which is part of the larger group known as raoellids.

Raoellids lived at about the same time as the earliest whales -- about 50 million years ago. Thewissen's team found key similarities in the skull and ear that suggest a link to cetaceans, a family that includes whales, dolphins and porpoises. *Indohyus*, for example, had an outside layer that was much thicker than similarly sized mammals. This is something typically seen in slow-wading mammals. They found further evidence in the chemical make-up of *Indohyus*' teeth, which resembled those of other aquatic animals. This suggests the small, stocky *Indohyus* spent a lot of time in the water.

Scientists had assumed whales descended from land-dwelling carnivores, and made their way to sea to feed on fish. "Clearly, this is not the case. *Indohyus* is a plant eater, and clearly is aquatic," Thewissen said in a statement. The researchers believe *Indohyus* gradually spent more time in the water, either for protection or while feeding, and the dietary shift came later. "Cetaceans originated from an *Indohyus*-like ancestor and switched to a diet of aquatic prey," the researchers wrote. Theories about the evolution of whales have been evolving themselves, and it may take years before there is a consensus.

**Debby's note:** The University of Michigan Natural History Museum (1109 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor) has a very nice exhibit of fossil whales and whale relatives in their second floor Hall of Evolution. The museum's hours are 9-5 Monday-Saturday & 12-5 Sunday. The museum is closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, December 24-26, and December 3. The Museum's phone is (734) 764-0478 and their website is <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/exhibitmuseum>. Admission is free to individuals and groups of 10 or less, however, there is a suggested donation of \$6 per person to help fund the museum's activities.

# January

# 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Gemcraft @ 7PM	3	4	5
6 Metalcraft @ 1:30	7	8	9 Gemcraft @ 7PM	10 Metalcraft @ 6:30PM Faceteers @ 7	11	12
13	14	15	16 <b>Club meeting Jim Harrell to speak</b>	17	18	19
20 Metalcraft @ 1:30	21	22	23 Gemcraft @ 7PM	24 Metalcraft @ 6:30PM	25	26 Coloring on copper 10AM
27	28	29	30 Gemcraft @ 7PM	31		

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