



AUGUST 2021 MONTHLY BULLETIN

A non-profit 501(c)3 group founded in March 1956, organized to educate the general public and members' knowledge of Mineralogy, Gems, Jewelry Making, Fossils and related earth sciences.

MEETINGS: The meetings are the first Thursday of each month except June, July, August and December. The Clubs annual holiday party is in December and the annual picnic is in June which includes a silent auction. Visitors are always welcome.

The meetings are at Hope Chapel (formerly Indian Creek Community Church), 12480 Black Bob Road in Olathe, Kansas. Meeting times are from **6:45 to 8:45** and we must be out of the building by 9:00. We meet on the lower level in room **018**. 6:45 to 7 PM is not structured, as member's fellowship and have a raffle. At the end of the raffle anyone who purchased tickets - and did not win anything - can go take one item from the table. The meeting starts at 7 PM followed by the guest speaker. Information is available at our website: olathegemclub.com.

DUES: \$10.00 per year for individuals / \$5.00 per year for minors / children under the age of 12 are free.
(Due by May meeting, and delinquent by September meeting)

OFFICERS and CHAIRPERSONS 2020 – 2021:

President: Norman Onnen (816)645-1333

Vice President: Lisa Hulbert (913)223-1028

Secretary: Alison Betts (913)962-9584

Treasurer: Barbara Crompton (913)492-6783

Website and Editor: Dan McDaniel (913)963-5357

Membership Chairman: Leslie Hartman (785)380-6016

Field Trip Coordinator: Leslie Hartman (785)380-6016

Field Trip Assistant: Larry Wells (913)787-5138

Programs: Lisa Hulbert, VP

Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen (816)645-1333

Gem Show Chairman: Norman Onnen

Raffle: Lisa Hulbert

Association Delegates: Chet McLaughlin & Mandy Lorenz

Alternate Assoc. Delegates: Vicky Ritter & Larry Wells

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

OGMS Club Meetings

Following our "virus recess", please remember that our next scheduled meetings will occur on the first Thursday of each month (rather than the previously structured Tuesday evenings). As such, and since we do not meet June, July and August, our next meetings are set for Thur., Sept. 2, Thur., Oct. 7. and Thur., Nov. 4, 2021 in room 018 at Hope Chapel (formerly named Indian Creek Community Church) 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS. Each meeting will now begin at 6:45 pm and end at 8:45 pm. (Note that in Dec. we hold a holiday party instead of a club meeting, and intend to do so again this year. Presently we are monitoring the re-opening of facilities and hope to return to the previous location this year for that party. Information on this will be provided as it becomes available).

Association News

The Association of Greater Kansas City Earth Science Clubs (of which the OGMS is a member) will hold its annual summer picnic on Sunday, August 29 in shelter #2 of Antioch Park, Overland Park, KS. The day will begin about 9am with a swap/shop for participants, followed around noon with the meal, and this followed by a live auction. Proceeds of the auction will go to the Association scholarship fund. Participants are asked to bring a side dish to share, and contributions of auction items are graciously encouraged. All seven clubs in the Association are invited to participate.

On the Road Again

OGMS members Allison Betts, Barbara Crompton, Gary Monroe, and Mike Purduski (with his wife) will once again be headed to the Nevada Royal Peacock Opal Mine at the end of this month. We look forward to their successful and safe journey, and will be eager to get their interesting report coupled with a display of captured opals. Reports are that they will make sure to have a spare tire with them this time.

OGMS Family News

Julie Robinson

We continue to keep Julie, and her husband M. John, in our thoughts and prayers as she recovers from her stroke and fall. She is reportedly improving in her walking and balance therapy, and is being cared for in her recovery by M. John and her son. They request no one contact them at this time and additional information will be provided as it becomes available. We trust her recovery will continue successfully and look for her and M. John to be with us again soon.

What's in a name?

What does "The Polished Slab", "The Glacial Drifter", "Post Rock" and "Quarry Quips" have in common? The answer is that they are all names of the impressive bulletins of other gem and mineral clubs (Southern Nevada, Topeka, McPherson and Wichita respectively). Which leads to the point that our club has not named our bulletin and thereby we are announcing a contest (with an actual prize for the winning entry) to give our document the ID/named status it deserves (and as a credible introduction to those who search for us on the website). Details will be announced at our Sept. meeting, and hopeful submissions and a selection can be made by our Oct. meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

I hope you all enjoyed these last couple months off. It has rained and the heat has been up and down so it's been unpredictable for field trips. It is time to start back up again so please watch for the emails that will start back up in August. I have found several new locations that I am working on getting permission for field trips. One is the Kansas yellow dendrites and some old/new quarries. Thank you all for your patience on the places and timing of the trips as they are mostly out of our hands. If you have any ideas for a field trip, please let me know by email or text hartman.12345@hotmail.com or 785-380-6016.
Lesliee

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

July in Arkansas is just as *hot* as back at home!

My son, Scott, and I braved the elements just the same to do some much-needed vacation time and quartz field collecting in the Mt. Ida area. Our lodging for three nights was at the Royal Oak Inn...not too bad, kind of like camping indoors if you know what I mean. At least no bedbugs! I definitely recommend making your own meals. There's a full-service grocery store in town.

We spent one whole day at Twin Creek Crystal Mine. One of the employees was busy with the track hoe and moved quite a bit of the tailings pile. Our success was lots of single points and yard rock. Next time we are going to schedule a pocket dig. It runs about \$300 for the two of us but might provide better clusters than searching through the general tailings.

Wagner's was the second mine we tried. For general collecting they run groups up to a site that isn't their principal mine. You pay for two-hour periods. Of course, in the heat that was about our limit. I much prefer the one-day flat fee so I'm not planning on collecting here again.

Lastly, we allowed ourselves a brief visit at Sweet Surrender Mine. We were heading home and didn't have time for a full day. It was strange to be there alone considering it was a Friday, probably the heat. Anyway, the composition of the host rock is different. Here you find shale instead of sandstone. There is also more staining with iron oxide so you train your eyes to look for shapes and dark coloring. The crystals can be cleaned with hydrochloric acid to return them to their clear beauty.



Barbara Crompton

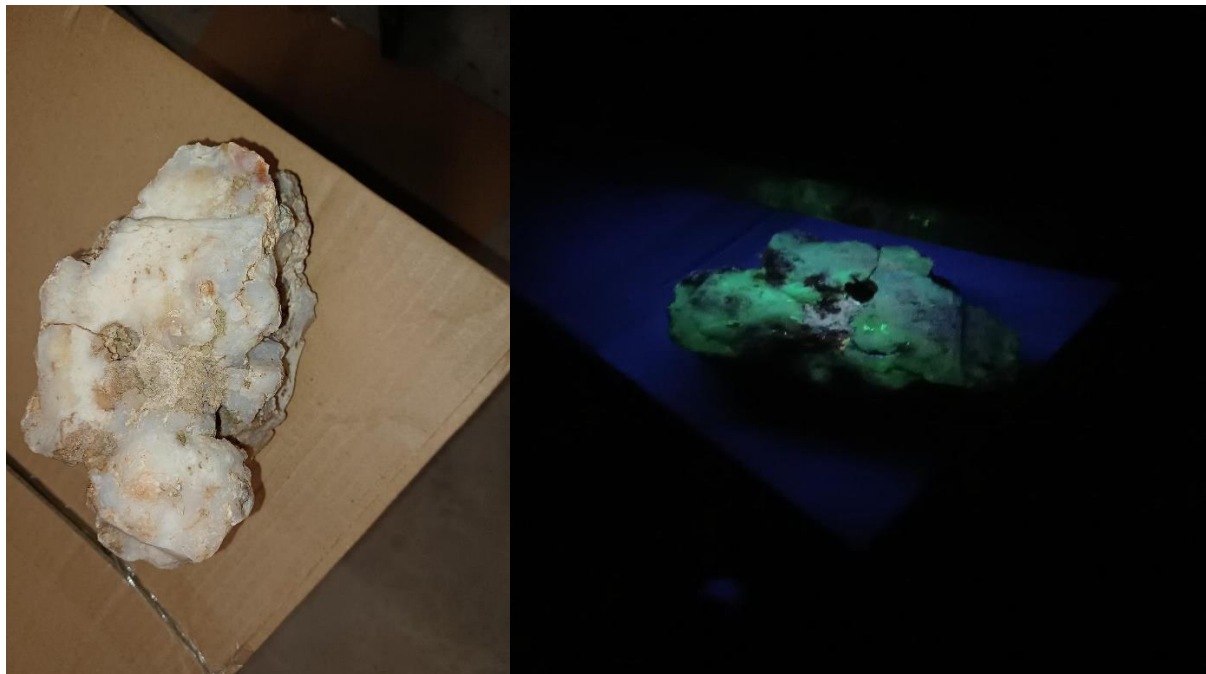
My Goodness - I Was Totally Fooled!

My wife and I make frequent trips to New Mexico to collect rocks, as this is the state I was born in and resided in NM for 45+ years. Having family and friends there is also an incentive to visit. On our last trip in March of this year, we wanted to check out some sites we had not visited before and one of these stops was outside of Hatch NM. For those who may not be familiar with Hatch, NM, it is known as the Green Chile Capital of the World. Miles and miles of green chile fields in the Rio Grande valley. Better than sliced bread.

The site we chose to visit is just a few miles from town and is not particularly difficult to reach. As we were driving down the county road, we decided to stop to check out the materials that may be available. After a few minutes of looking, we found some jasper, pet wood, and chalcedony although most of the materials were quite small and of little interest. Time to get back in the car and drive some more. When we reached a fork in the road, we turned to the left which took us over a ridge and down into a valley. At bottom of the valley was a sand filled arroyo, so we decided to hunt the slopes of the valley. There was a small isolated plateau next to the arroyo which I decided I had to get to the top of. After huffing and puffing my way to the top, I found very little which was a disappointment for the work involved in the climb. As I began back down the hill, I notice a rock poking out of the ground which looked like chalcedony. As I began to dig, it turned out to be much larger than I expected. I put the extremely dirty, algae/lichen covered rock into my bucket. At least I had something to take home. We did not find much of anything else at this site, so we called it a day and drove on to Las Cruces to have a "Green Chile Cheese Burger" before heading to the hotel.

On this trip we ran into weather issues (i.e.: snow in the high desert in end of March) which forced us to abandon some of our trip plans as the snow covered the ground at most of the other locations. Only in the life of a rockhound.

Back home and it is now the end of June. I took a look at this dirty old 5 lb. rock sitting in the garage and thinking maybe I should just get rid of it, but decided I would take the time to soak it in water and detergent and take a brush to it to get the gunk off. What a mess!!! Lots of vugs and cracks to clean. As I finally begin to see the finished product, I realized that the rock below the chalcedony is common opal. Now it is time to put it under the UV SW light. I was expecting the chalcedony on top would fluoresce green, but it did not. Totally surprised, as the other chalcedony from this area glows green. The opal itself fluoresced a light green/yellow with some areas of red.

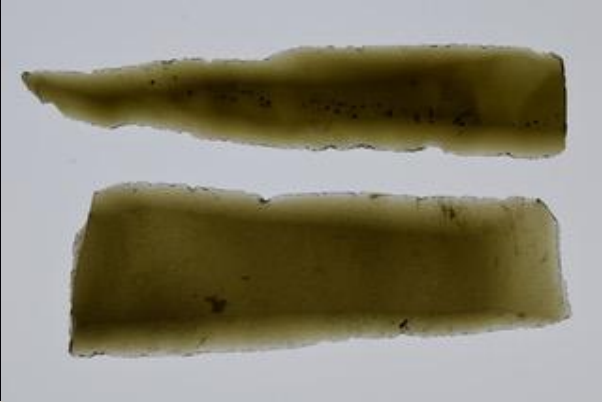


It's uncommon for me to bring home a rock and be surprised by its makeup, but definitely a pleasant one.

Dan McDaniel

Meso-American Scholars?

Are there any Meso-American scholars in the OGMS? A friend has asked if anyone can give insight to the following items brought back from Mexico by parents probably in the early 1900's. The bladed objects are believed to be green obsidian and thought to be about 2,500 years old. The figurine is clay.



Norm Onnen

A sign not to be ignored

An effort to collect selenite clusters in Arizona last year revealed an unexpected hazard. Not being in California, it was surprising to see an official yellow diamond road caution sign which read "Earth Fissures Possible" - and they were not kidding. Several lateral displacements in the road and adjacent

stream were clearly evident with repairs and damage in several places witness to reality in this remote area. The location is near St. David, AZ. (See "St. David Selenite Clusters", Site 81 in Gem Trails of Arizona by James R. Mitchell).

Norm Onnen

Growing Your Own Crystals

Do you have children? How about grandchildren? Want to intensify their (or your) interest in Geology? The following link provides you with instructions on growing salt crystals [How to grow Salt Crystals](#)
Larry Wells

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Shows

While many shows are being cancelled across the country due to the virus, there are a few still being tentatively scheduled. Interested individuals are cautioned to periodically check the status of shows and promoter notices.

August, 29, 2021 – Association of Greater Kansas City Science Clubs annual picnic. (See details above)

Sept. 2, 2021 (Thursday) – OGMS Club meeting. 6:45 - 8:45pm, Hope Chapel, Olathe, KS

Sept. 2021 – Mozarkite field trip. (Details, including exact date TBD)

Sept. 11 - 12, 2021 – NW Arkansas Gem and Mineral Society, Siloam Springs, Arkansas *

* While outside of the RMF region, this is a Rocky Mountain Federation club event/show and replaces the spring show that had to be cancelled due to the virus

Sept. 16 - 19, 2021 – Denver gem and mineral show; Colorado Convention Center

Sept. 17 - 19, 2021 – Mozarkite Society of Lincoln MO; 62nd Annual Rock and Gem Show, Lincoln MO.

Sept. 24 - 26, 2021 – Tri-State Gem and Mineral Society, Joplin, MO annual show

Oct. 7, 2021 (Thursday) – OGMS Club meeting. 6:45 - 8:45pm, Hope Chapel, Olathe, KS

Oct. 9-10, 2021 – Topeka Gem & Mineral Society 64th Annual Show "Green with Envy". Ag Hall, Stormont Vail Event Center

Nov. 4, 2021 (Thursday)– OGMS Club meeting. 6:45 - 8:45pm. Hope Chapel, Olathe, KS

Nov. 5 - 7, 2021 – KC Gem and Mineral Show; KC Expo Center

Dec. 2021 – OGMS Club Holiday Party (TBD)

March 11 - 13, 2022 – 60th Anniversary KC Gem and mineral Show; KC Expo Center

