



**OLATHE  
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
MONTHLY BULLETIN  
March 7, 2017**

**A non-profit group, organized to educate the general public and members' knowledge of Mineralogy, Gems, Jewelry Making, Fossils and related earth sciences.  
Founded March 1956**

**MEETINGS:**

**The meetings are the first Tuesday of each month (except June, July, August and December).**

**The meetings will be at the Indian Creek Community Church, 12480 Blackbob Road in Olathe.**

**We will have a meeting room from 6:30 to 9 pm.  
We will be meeting downstairs in room 018.**

**VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME**

**DUES: \$10.00 per year for individuals / \$5.00 per year for minors.**

**(Due by May meeting, and delinquent by Sept. meeting.)**

**Officers for 2016-2017**

**President: Norman Onnen – (816) 331-4862**  
**Vice President: Larry Wells - (913) 787-5138**  
**Secretary: Spring Wittmeier – (913) 945-0878**  
**Treasurer: Barbara Crompton – (913) 492-6783**  
**Bulletin and Website Editor: M John Robinson – (913) 669-8284**  
**Membership Chairman: M John Robinson**

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:**

**Greetings club members to an early spring. I just returned from the Tucson show and recognize the weather here is presently warmer and more springlike than in southern Arizona and New Mexico. This was an unusual trip in that the temperature was cooler (but not cold) and somewhat wet (experienced a couple of flash floods while collecting en route (NW of Phoenix and S of Lordsburg, NM) which is normally bone dry. (Dead Horse Wash near Aquila, AZ is appropriately named).**

**The 63rd Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show**

was again an event not to be missed — the theme being “Mineral Treasurers of the Midwest”. The center area of the convention venue was filled with display cases exhibiting everything from Upper Peninsula (MI) copper, datalite, etc.; to geodes galore, to TN calcites, to many tri-state (MO/OK/AR) mined pieces. Strangely (to me and others I talked to) there were no specific displays of Lake Superior agates (but examples may have been at some of the vendors booths). The theme for the upcoming 64th annual show (Feb. 8-11, 2018) is “Crystals and Crystal Forms”.

Coming up is the combination Alb., NM show/Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) conference March 17-19, 2017 in Alb., NM, this theme being “Treasures of the Earth”. I will be attending as a club delegate and would welcome getting together with any other club members who plan to attend. For those who do register will be the limited unique opportunity to participate in two field trips normally not available. The first is to the Blanchard mines near Socorro, NM (on Mon., Mar. 20) and the second is to Nacimiento (near Cuba, NM) on Sun., Mar. 19. In each case the participant must provide their own transportation.

Our club, as a member of the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, will participate in the March 10-12, 2017 Kansas City Gem &

**Mineral Show (our annual show). We will again position individual member display cases (to which our club receives a financial contribution for each case). M. John Robinson is making a list of those individuals wishing to display. Please contact him with your intent to display. Also, Tom Lorenz will be passing a sign-up sheet soliciting members who will help set up/take down the show, take tickets, etc. (As our part of the 8 club Association, we need to help with a minimum of 1/8 of the effort).**

**We thank Keith Shaw and Brian Simmons for adopting the function of our raffles. To that end our raffle box is somewhat depleted and needs a monthly influx of new and interesting items for selection. Please remember to bring one or more items each month to contribute. Also we are seeking someone to adopt the raffle exercise for each meeting.**

**Have fun gold panning at our March 7 meeting (Thanks to Larry Wells for making this possible). And, for our April 4 meeting, please welcome Dr. David Burnham (KU lead paleontologist) who will present the efforts underway excavating in MT what's described as being the most complete T-Rex ever found. For this meeting please feel free to invite guests who might be interested.**

**Tentatively, looking forward —**

**March 10-12, 2017 our Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show.**

**March 17-19, 2017 The Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem & Mineral Society annual convention (held in conjunction with the local G&M club) in Alb., NM.**

**April 8 -- several are interested in selenite crystal collecting on the Salt Plains N.W.R. near Jet, OK. More on this later.**

**M. John Robinson is working on arrangements to go to the Mozarkite site this spring. More on this later.**

**Possible field trip to Troy, KS (NE KS) by Larry Wells**

**Annual picnic Sat. June 3, 2017. Lone Elm Park, Olathe, KS; 3-9pm.**

**And, finally, the Topeka Gem & Mineral club has invited us to participate in their field trips (about 7-9/year). More on this later as trips are planned.**

**Happy rock hounding — and related activities!  
Norm Onnen**

**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM  
CHAIRMAN**

**Program for March Meeting**

**We will have a hands on exercise in gold panning again.**

**Larry Wells**

**CLUB WEBSITE**

**The website is in the process of being updated. It is still in creation mode, but a rudimentary version is available and will be continually updated as we go forward using a new web site software package.**

**[www.olathegemclub.com](http://www.olathegemclub.com)**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2016-2017:**

**Refreshments: To be determined.**

**Raffle: Keith Shaw and Brian Simmons**

**Association Delegates: Tom Lorenz & Norman Onnen**

**Alternate Association Delegates: Larry Wells**

**Field Trips: Earl Newland**

**Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen**

**Programs: Larry Wells**

**Membership: M John Robinson**

**Bulletin Editor: M John Robinson**

**Show Chairman: Tom Lorenz**

**Webmaster: M John Robinson**

**MEMBERSHIP LIST**

**The current membership information is contained on a separate attachment. We now have 43 members. Please provide the membership chairman with any updates or corrections.**

