



OCTOBER 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: Larry Wells

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

OGMS November Meeting

IMPORTANT NOTE: Because the November gem and mineral show will occur the first weekend of the month (Nov. 5-7, 2021), our OGMS monthly meeting will be held Thursday, November 18th (instead of Nov. 4).

Nov. 5-7, 2021 Gem and Mineral Show

After being cancelled last year due to virus concerns, this year the show will go on at the KCI Expo Center on November 5-7, 2021. Hosted by Shows of Integrity, our area clubs will again be allowed to man sales tables for themselves provided 10% of sales volume goes to the individual clubs. If you plan to participate in selling at this show you must let me know by Wed., Oct. 13 so that I can indicate to the Association the number of tables we will request. Please send me an email indicating your intent at onnenne@kc.rr.com. Note that participants will set up on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021.

OGMS Receives Contribution Benefiting Young Rockhounds

We are pleased to welcome husband and wife team Holly and Mary Blythe, lifelong educators and forever rockhounds, to the Olathe Gem and Mineral Society as Honorary Members. The Blythe's have lifelong careers as educators focused in the sciences and humanities. In their retirement they have now donated much of their rock, mineral and fossil collection to our use with the anticipation of putting the materials in the hands of youth with our assistance. Their career accomplishments are as follows:

Mary Blythe. Retired Elementary Science Supervisor for KCK USD#500. Elementary Science Supervisor and Planetarium Director for 28 years (1974-2002); Instructional Coach (SIF) John F. Kennedy, 2002-2005 Science/Math Instructional Resource Teacher, 2001; Adjunct Professor, Emporia State University 2005-2010; Adjunct Professor, Park University.

Holly Blythe. Retired Middle School Educator KCK USD#500. Education Master's Degree; Adjunct Professor KCKCC Humanities Department 2001-2010.

Mary (the primary rockhound) and Holly (the significant rockhound enabler by his own account) Blythe, who as husband-and-wife team, have been educators and rockhounds exemplary. Mary has taught in the middle school age group for over 30 years and achieved the position of Adjunct Professor at Emporia State University and Park University, while Holly taught in the Junior College system and achieved the position of Adjunct Professor at KCKCC. Together they shared their passion for travel and natural science with multitudes of youth, as well as sharing many of the rock, mineral and fossils specimens with those young students. They continue this intent by indicating the desire for much of their materials be shared with area youth, and to that desire the materials are presently being sorted and labeled so as to be distributed by our club to interested young rockhounds and scientists-to-be. We express our thanks to the Blythe's for entrusting and enabling the OGMS to participate in this important endeavor, and for their profound kindness.

OGMS Library News

Thanks to the generosity of Mary and Holly Blythe (see the previous report concerning donations) the following documents have been donated to our club and are now placed in the club library. (The library listing will be updated with this and other material at the end of Dec. 2021. See the link on the club website for the library listing to date).

Fossil Collecting, An Illustrated Guide to; Casanova & Katkevich, 1981
Fossil Sharks, a Pictorial Review; Gerald R. Case, 1973
Fossils, The Evolution and Extinction of Species; Niles Eldredge, 1991
Fossils For Amateurs, A Handbook for Collectors; Russell MacFall and Jay Wollin, 1972
Fossils of Missouri, The Common; A. G. Unklesbay, 1973
Fossils of the World; V, Turek, et. Al., 1989
Gem Trails of Texas; Bessie Simpson, 1981
Gem Trails of Texas; James Mitchell, 1987
Geology; Frank Rhodes, 1972 (\$3.95, cover)
Geology of Wyoming; D. L. Blackstone, Jr., 1971
Kansas Geology; Rex Buchanan, 1984 (\$5.00 est.)
Kansas Rocks and Minerals; Laura Tolsted and Ada Swineford, 1969
Kansas Rocks and Minerals; Laura Tolsted and Ada Swineford, 1971
Midwest Gem, Fossil and Mineral Trails, Prairie States; June Culp Zeitner, 1989
Roadside Geology of Arizona; Halka Chronic, 1989
Roadside Geology of Idaho; David Alt and Donald Hyndman, 1993 David Alt and Donald Hyndman, 1994
Roadside Geology of Utah; Halka Chronic, 1990
Roadside Geology of Washington; David Alt and Donald Hyndman, 1987
Roadside Geology of Wyoming; David Lagoon and Darwin Spearing, 1994
Roadside Kansas; Rex Buchanan and James McCauly, 1987
Rocks and Fossils in and around Millard County (Utah); (no author, no date)
Rocks and Minerals; Simon & Schuster 1988
Rockhound's Guide to Montana; Robert Feldman, 1985

Rockhounding Utah; Wm. Kappel, 1996
The Northwestern Quadrant; Allan Eckert, 1987
Trilobites; Riccardo Levi-Setti, 1993

OGMS Mozarkite Field Trip

On Sat., Sept. 18, 2021 five OGMS members traveled to near Cole Camp, MO to collect Mozarkite on the Bob Harms property. The site had been turned over with a backhoe the week prior to our arrival and participants had the opportunity to collect in the trench and pilings to either side. Once we had our fill here, four of the members traveled to nearby Lincoln, MO to attend the Mozarkite Society of Lincoln, Inc. annual show, where they were joined by two other OGMS members. This was to be the last opportunity for the club to collect on the Harms property as a home was being built on the site and in the future some camp sites will reportedly be positioned. (For those who have collected here before and need to complete location information on labels, the coordinates for the site are 38 degrees 25' 25" North and 93 degrees 15' 39" West).

A side note on this trip is that Mr. Harms displayed a framed collection of exceptional Mozarkite pieces he had carved from material obtained on this site. This, and another framed collection, along with some jewelry pieces he made, will be displayed at the March 2022 Gem and Mineral show in Kansas City.

OGMS Follow Up on Shaw Sightings

As indicated in a Sept. 19 email, the following is a listing of where OGMS members Keith and Tammy Shaw will set up their booth in the coming weeks. Please stop by and support these members.

Sat., Oct. 16 and Sun., Oct. 17, 2021

Maple Leaf Festival

Baldwin City, KS

Sat, Nov. 6, 2021

Spring Hill Holiday Bazaar

Spring Hill Middle School (301 E. South St., Spring Hill, KS 66083

Fri., Nov. 26, 2021 (5-9pm) and Sat., Nov. 27, 2021 (9am-5pm)

Bizarre Bazaar

940 New Hampshire Street

Lawrence, KS 66044

OGMS member Teaching/Sighting

On Wed., Sept. 22, 2021 OGMS member Rebecca Francis was observed teaching three sessions concerning the geologic history of the world to 5th grade students during Discovery Day at Santa Fe Trail Middle School in Olathe, KS. These sessions amazingly covered the entire range of the 4.5-billion-year-old planet and included the fossil record signifying the important segments of the entire time line. Each student was provided their own samples of brachiopods, dino bone, petrified wood as well as recent

bone from the Peace River in Florida from her own collection. This day long high energy presentation was well received by about 16 eager students in each session and it was readily apparent that Rebecca has had much previous experience in the classroom. Way to go Rebecca.

Membership Dues are Past Due

After suspending membership dues for the past two years (due to the virus and club inactivity), dues for the 2021-2022 year are now being collected. Our club Treasurer started collecting the dues at our May meeting (per our Bylaws) and had hoped to complete the effort at the club meeting in September. If you have not paid your \$10 dues, please do so at the October meeting.

Note: the new members who have joined during this past year are automatically paid through this next period. Thank you for your continued membership and support of our chapter.

Holiday Party

After a two-year recess due to the virus, we are fortunate to be the first group to be scheduled in the venue and to again host our annual holiday party at the Olathe Hy Vee where we have met in the past. Please reserve Saturday, Dec. 4 for this event. More information will be provided in November.

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). Submissions should be made by the October club meeting and the selection will be made during the meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

Tentative field trip upon approval for October 23,2021 10am. 37.987143,-96.116185

I am working with Emporia State University to get permission to visit the Hamilton Quarry. I will need to know how many adults and children under 12 will be coming on this field trip.

There are a few factors to keep in mind when considering deciding to go on this trip. As this quarry is owned and managed by Emporia, they have right to the first refusal for any and all specimens that are collected. Therefore, every specimen that you collect at the quarry must be brought to the Johnston Geology Museum at Emporia State University within a few days after collecting them. The museum has a director who will determine if the specimen stays with the university or goes home with you. If you still decide to go on the field trip, I will give you the details to who you will report to at Emporia with your specimen.

We can bring hand tools but of course no powered tools. We may or may not find any specimens, but this quarry would be worth looking into. We are liable for our own personal safety while at the quarry.

I will need to know by **October 4th**, if you will be coming. I must send the number of people to get the approval. You can email me or send me a text @ 785-380-6016 with your name and of all who are coming.

Some questions were asked and here is some information if this helps with your decision. You will need to show the specimens in person for better judgement because a picture will not work. If you can, you can visit the campus with your specimens **after** the field trip. I will need to know during the field trip to enable me to call the contact so he will be there at that time.

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. Leslie

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

October Presentation

Jeannie Feimster will give us a presentation on her travels outside of the country.
Barbara Crompton

Arts in the Park

Alison Betts and Barbara Crompton participated in the West Plaza's annual Art in the Park last Saturday. The weather was perfect. Lots of dog walkers use the park but it was peaceful most of the time. We were the only artists offering our rock related crafts. Alison had a Southwestern theme on her table with hand painted geckos and desert scenes while Barbara offered natural stone ceiling fan pulls, zipper pulls, finials, pendants and purse charms. A real hit with the children was the "grab box", scrap rocks and slabs. Any 5 pieces for \$1. Come see us at the Shawnee Moonlight Market on Thursday, October 21 in downtown Shawnee.



Barbara Crompton

Club Meeting Snacks

For clarification – Snacks and water **Are** provided at the club meeting. If you desire something else to

drink, please bring it with you.

Dan McDaniel

Ginkgo (The Maidenhair Tree)

“Maidenhair”????? Makes it sound like a fragile and dainty tree, but do not to be fooled. This tree has durability and longevity — and in truth the Maidenhair moniker was only applied because the deciduous leaves resemble the maidenhair fern.

Recognizing that rockhounds and mineralogists are in general (and sometimes intensely) interested in natural history and what makes the world go 'round, expectations are that the persistent ginkgo tree should be understood in the scheme of all things prehistoric. It turns out that the ginkgo (Ginkgophyta) can be considered a near perfect time machine in that it is unchanged for over 200 million years, and their fossils contain real organic plant material (rather than only an impression). Originating in the late Paleozoic or early Mesozoic (225-250 M.Y. ago) this tree was distributed worldwide, declined somewhat in the Tertiary, and all but the *G. biloba*, the current species, became extinct several million years ago. Also, the trees growing habits are important to researchers in that they are an index to climatic conditions that existed in the Arctic regions in the past — thus the understanding of where certain land masses were located at any particular time (plate tectonics). So, with this, today's scientists are studying these fossils along with the present trees and trying to understand the climate of the past, compared to the present situation, and projecting anticipated conditions into the future.

The ginkgo happens to be the perfect text condition for these studies because this plant existed prior to flowering plants, and through many climatic conditions which can all be understood based upon recognition of where (plate tectonics, global land mass positioning, temperature changes, etc.) and when (Paleozoic into recent time) this particular tree lived. It is considered to be the oldest living tree of the seed plants and is often referred to as the "living fossil".

Because of its historical longevity it would seem that petrified ginkgo wood might be plentiful, however, this distinctive and much sought fossil is as “rare as hen's teeth” (according to Cunningham's *Cabochon Gem Material* booklet). That being said, there is The Ginkgo State Park (and museum) at Vantage, Washington state that has an excellent display of polished petrified wood specimens (along with other petrified woods), and walking trails planted with ginkgoes. Locally, Prairie Village (Kansas) shopping center has the streets lined with ginkgoes, and in Overland Park's Antioch Park there are several planted in memorial to individual citizens. Those being planted today for shade and ornamentation are limited to the male of the species because the female tree bears fruit that is fleshy, a maintenance concern on sidewalks, etc. and has a distinct odor (butyric acid) many find objectionable. The ginkgo's fossilized leaves are the most common to be found and collected. Actual ginkgo fossilized wood is hard to obtain and usually very expensive, but well worth adding to a collection. (Ref.: KC Star, 8/29/21; Lapidary Journal, July 1991; Cunningham's *Cabochon Gem Material*)

Norm Onnen

Tucson 2022

Following the cancellation of the 2021 Tucson Gem and Mineral show (however a smaller modified

show was accomplished in April 2021 at various venues), the organizers are putting together a massive 2022 show which promises to be bigger and better than ever. The theme will be fluorescents which will attract large crowds. This annual February show follows the traditional gathering of the rockhound “snowbirds” arriving in January in Quartzite, AZ and the virus did not diminish the crowd of over one million who normally attend this desert event. This crowd for the most part then moves to Tucson in early Feb., and the main show occurs over the Valentine’s Day weekend, after which all disperse.

An exciting feature for 2022 is opening of the Alfie Norville Gem & Mineral Museum in the 1929 Spanish Colonial Revival-style Pima County Courthouse. This is even more anticipated as the exceptional mineral collection had been housed on the University campus, and was virtually impossible to visit due to very limited parking and access. The gem and mineral crowd have long desired this more accessible venue and it should be well attended and appreciated. Nearby, the Tucson Museum of Art unveiled the new Kaser Family Wing of Latin American Art showcasing more than 3,000 years of Aztec and Mayan antiquities. Jan. and Feb. 2022 should be a great time to visit Tucson (and Quartzite) following the virus recess.

An accounting of the April 2021 Tucson experience, and anticipatory explanation of what to expect in 2022 can be found in the “What’s New in Minerals” feature of the July-August issue of The Mineralogical Record. Thomas Moore, who annually contributes to this article, reveals that Bryan Lees and the Collectors Edge crew have been, and continue to be, engaged in new superlative rhodochrosite workings of the Sweet Home Mine on Mount Bross near Alma, Park County, Colorado. The new efforts are uphill from the earlier works in Buckskin Gulch and are named the “Detroit City” works. There is no explanation of how that name was derived for the present workings, but it is reported that the Detroit City specimens are uniquely distinctive from earlier Sweet Home Mine specimens and should be spectacular - as are the earlier specimens. (KC Star, Aug. 29, 2021; The Mineralogical Record, July-August 2021).

Norm Onnen

Collecting 500 Pounds of Fossil-bearing Rocks in Washington’s San Juan Islands with Brian Atkinson

“This field excursion was part of a bigger program to understand similar aged fossil floras along the western coast of North America. I collect in California, Washington, and Vancouver Island, British Columbia. I’m continuously looking for other localities along the coast. I have a grant to go to Antarctica to collect fossil plants of the same age — about 80 million years old — so this trip will help understand the geographic distribution of these fossil floras. I’m also interested in how these fossils can impact our understanding of evolutionary relationships and patterns. I collect morphological data from the fossils and put it into data matrices for evolutionary analyses. This gives us a more complete picture of plant evolution in deep time. (Source: KU Biodiversity Program)”

[#KUFieldWorks: Collecting fossil-bearing rocks in Washington’s San Juan Islands with Brian Atkinson](#)

Something to contemplate, particularly as related to early on the road rockhounds.

Early risers feel at ease with each other, perhaps because, unlike those who sleep late, that are given to understatement of their own achievements. (Aldo Leopold. “Too early” essay in “A Sand County

Almanac".)

Norm Onnen

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.

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

Oct 14, 2021 - Association Board meeting

Oct 16-17, 2021 - Des Moines Lapidary Society annual show

~~**Nov 4, 2021**~~ (Thursday) – **NOTE** – Meeting moved to Nov 18th. OGMS Club meeting. 6:45 - 8:45pm.

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

Nov 11, 2021 - Association Board meeting

Nov 18, 2021 (Thursday) - OGMS Club meeting. 6:45 - 8:45pm, Hope Chapel, Olathe, KS

Dec 4, 2021 – OGMS Club Holiday Party

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