



## **SEPTEMBER 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](http://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**

Our Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021 club meeting program will feature a favorite - a presentation by Tom Tivol entitled "Laboratory created diamonds, pros and cons, fabrication process, identification of, and price comparison to natural diamonds". Also, members are encouraged to bring recent finds, and specimens needing identification help to share. This meeting will begin with our traditional raffle and refreshments will be served. Attendees are asked to bring their own drinks; however, water will be served to those wishing that beverage. The meeting will begin at 6:45 pm and conclude at 8:45 pm in room 018 at the Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS. We must exit the building by 9 pm so that the security system can be activated. Please feel free to invite interested visitors to any of our meetings and field trips.

### **Membership dues are 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 will hope to complete the effort at this upcoming Sept. 2 club meeting. Dues are still only \$10 a year. (What a bargain! About the price of 2 Salted Caramel Mocha Frappuccino Grandes at Starbucks.)

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). Details will be announced at our Sept. meeting, and hopeful submissions and a selection can be made by our Oct. meeting.

### **OGMS Family News**

**Julie Robinson** - M. John Robinson let us know that Julie continues her recovery following her hospital stay 3 months ago. Please continue to hold her and her recovery efforts in your thoughts and prayers, and in keeping with family wishes withhold cards and attempts to contact them. We will provide updates in our bulletin for the time being.

**Thomas Lorenz** - Ann Lorenz (Tom's wife) and Mandy (Tom's daughter) graciously shared the Memorial Service program for Tom's June 19, 2021 Memorial Service held in Olathe. Tom, a long time OGMS member and multi-position officer over the years, passed away at home April 25, 2020 and was buried in Salt Lake City on May 8, 2020. This Memorial Service was delayed due to virus concerns. The program correctly indicates "Tom loved to tell stories, share knowledge, and talk to everyone. He had an astounding ability to remember anything and everything." Add to that, he liked rocks. He is sorely missed.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

The Mozarkite field trip will be September 18<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln, MO. If you are interested in going and have not notified Norm, please let him know.

A field trip is being planned for September 25. The location will be supplied later by email and Facebook per Leslie.

If you have any ideas for a field trip, please let me know by email or text [hartman.12345@hotmail.com](mailto:hartman.12345@hotmail.com) or 785-380-6016. Leslie

### **NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS**

#### **Club Raffle**

Help!!! We are in need of more materials for the club raffle. The money received from the club raffle goes towards the refreshments at the club meetings. Please bring in your donations to help support

your club. In addition, Lisa would appreciate some help in running the raffle and maintaining the materials. Please let one of the officers know if you can help.

Dan McDaniel

### **Shawnee Moonlight Market**

The City of Shawnee is holding a street market on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month this summer. They block off Johnson Drive and the side streets framing the city hall for this afternoon/evening event. In August, Barbara Crompton and Allison Betts, braved the heat and the sun to crowds of folks enjoying the shopping of baked goods, fresh produce, live music, and handcrafts. Alison and Barbara had tables set up under their bright pink canopy, selling hand painted pictures and geckos, ceiling fan pulls, keychains, pendants, and newly dug quartz from Arkansas. A big hit was the “grab box” of rocks on Barbara’s table. For just \$1 anyone could fill a small sandwich bag!

The next Market will be held September 16<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to come visit us at our Pink Canopy.



Barbara Crompton

**Dr. Who?????????** (No, this is not about a movie, but is of interest to rock and gem hounds) - **and who is Victoria?** Has anyone heard of Dr. S. Iimori? Or, of the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research in Tokyo?

It turns out that Dr. Iimori, who worked at the Research lab into the mid 1960's, engaged in creation of gemstones (including “Meta Jade”, “Maple Stone”, “Halo Stone”, and “Meta Amethyst”). His lasting recognition is the creation of “Victoria Stone” - a product most have never heard of, is exceedingly rare, and in today's market is extremely sought after and quite valuable. The other named materials attempted are almost lost to history as being not particularly successful.

Victoria Stone was made of several natural raw materials which included quartz, feldspar, magnesite, calcite, fluor spar and others (unidentified). These were intensely heated and fused together into a molten magma to which he added unidentified special crystallizers and crystal habit regulators. This was then poured into boules (in the mineral world recognized as a rounded mass or loaf mold) which were placed under 2000 pounds of pressure, and then very slowly cooled over 35-40 days in a very strictly controlled environment. The results were exceptional chatoyant crystals - similar to Pectolite (Larimar), thomsonite, Isle Royale greenstone (pumpellyite), and prehnite. The reconstructed

gems/materials had a hardness of 6, specific gravity of 3.02 and a refractive index of 1.62. and was touted as being similar to nephrite jade. Fifteen colors were produced between 1960 to the 1980's (green, sky blue, reddish purple, yellow green, blue green, sky indigo, chocolate, yellow, deep indigo, white, quiet green, quiet yellow, quiet blue, grey and black).

This material was first named Limori Stone, but then for marketing purposes changed to Victoria Stone around 1969. Some recent research has called this material leaded glass, however there are some who resist that label, and an importer cited it as man-made Amphibole, others a synthetic jade. All this adds to the mystery and increased value of the product. To this the fact that Dr. Limori never patented his process fearing others would duplicate the effort and he died at age 84 supposedly only revealing it to a son. This in itself apparently adds to the mystery as reports of the son trying to duplicate the process failed and entire effort expired in the late 1980's. There are unconfirmed reports that there are some trying to re-discover the process, but to date no recognition of any success.

So, where does this leave the gem and mineral world? There are minimal supplies of the material still to be found (mostly small pieces and "slabs") and even fewer boules. Knowledgeable dealers and collectors continue to scout old collections for the materials and acknowledge the value/price if/when found.

Individuals interested in this product can read about it online, and I have in the OGMS library two articles on it (Dec, 1980 and July, 1981 Lapidary Journal). (**See the Want Ad below**). This leads to my discovery of a private Victoria Stone collection. I have made arrangements with the owner, and the collection will be featured at the March 2022 KC Gem and Mineral show.

Norm Onnen

### **Want Ad**

Related to the above piece on Vitoria Stone, there apparently was an Aug. 1969 Lapidary Journal article on the material. This particular issue is not in the OGMS library and if someone has it a copy of the issue and/or the article having it placed in our library would be appreciated.

### **Rockhound TV Surfing**

Have you ever watched an animal, natural history or geo show on TV and paid particular attention to the rocks, etc. that the scenes include and/or that the animals move around in? Now, with the political and virus situations where interviews are conducted remotely - often from a persons' home or office, and usually in front of a book case or other strategically placed items, there are new things of interest to watch for. Of interest in the background to some are the pictures and the books some of the interviewees apparently read. But to a rockhound and mineral enthusiast often of interest are the objects displayed. Earlier this year Robin Roberts (a Good Morning America personality) who broadcasted from her Mississippi home during the early virus concerns often had a large Moroccan geode moved from place to place behind her depending upon what day it was. Currently Dr. Jha, of Brown University, who is frequently interviewed about vaccines, has a very nice cube of apparent orbicular granite (probably from Finland) on the top shelf of a bookcase over his right shoulder. As for

the animals, frequently can be seen a nice agate and if the filming locality were specifically known, would be a target of many a rockhound. As for “Jade Fever” and similar Weather Station shows, have you ever seen instances of so many equipment problems, trauma and drama???? (Just an editorial comment).

Norm Onnen

### **Oldest Animal Fossils**

In an Associated Press article (KC Star, July 29, 2021) a headline entitled “Oldest animal fossils may be in Canadian rocks” suggests structures resembling modern sponge skeletons, found in the Northwest Territory of Canada, could be the oldest fossils yet found. Thought to be about 890 million years old (which is 350 million years older than the currently undisputed previously found sponge fossils), these new finds, which if substantiated, would place them as living organisms before the time when oxygen in the atmosphere and ocean reached a level thought necessary for animal life (but then scientists believe that sponges can/could have lived with very little oxygen).

For a better understanding of life before the almost universal recognition of first life, just before the Precambrian Period, recommended less than purely technical and scientific readings are “Annals of the Former World” by John McPhee and “Wonderful Life” by Stephen Gould. The McPhee volume, while not discussing prehistoric life, does detail plate tectonics and the geology across the U.S. (along I-80) and includes discussion of the formation of the entire North American continent from the time of the planet beginnings. The Gould text is specific to Precambrian life in the Burgess shale of British Columbia.

Which leads to a travel hint. Most people who vacation to Banff, Canada fly into Calgary and rent a car. Banff happens to be within a few miles of the Precambrian fossils of the Burgess Shale beds (the topic of the “Wonderful Life” book). While the general visitor could not access the shale beds, an interested person should be aware of the world class dino/fossil museum at Drumheller, Alberta, Canada which is worth an extra day visit to Dinosaur Provincial Park at Drumheller in transitioning at Calgary. This museum has a walk-through exhibit (many times life size) of the Burgess fossils - and along with the dinos is a once in a lifetime experience that should not be missed.

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.

**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 9, 2021** - Association Board meeting

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

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

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

**Sept 18, 2021** – OGMS Mozarkite field trip to Cole Camp, 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

**Oct 14, 2021** - Association Board meeting

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

**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

**Nov 11, 2021** - Association Board meeting

**Dec 4, 2021** – OGMS Club Holiday Party

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