



ROCK SOLID

MARCH 2022 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.org

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 2021 – 2022:

President: Norman Onnen (816)645-1333

Vice President: Vacant

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: Vacant

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 Meeting - March

Our next scheduled club meeting will be Thursday evening, March 3, 2022 at Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS (6:45 PM to 8:4 PM, in room 018). (Note: Hope Chapel is the new name of what was formerly named Indian Creek Community Church)

The program will be concerning meteorites - including a (potential) recent find near Baldwin City, KS. Presenting in person will be OGMS member Vince Martini, along with Steve Arnold (by Zoom). Vince works closely with meteorite man Steve Arnold setting the Kansas Pallasite Olivine (Peridot) gemstones into jewelry settings. They have also developed large ground penetrating equipment in search of meteorites. This should be a most interesting presentation (which we intend to start promptly at 7:15 PM). Thanks to Larry Wells for setting up and arranging this presentation. If you desire, click on the following YouTube videos to learn more.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qY0vxxUiCO> S02 E01 | Alpha Gemstones

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENyA16dr_ko Return to Alpha

Association March Show Notes

The 60th annual (only interrupted in 2021 by Covid) is being held March 11-13, 2022 at the KC Expo Center (near KCI airport). A function of the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City (of which the Olathe Gem and Mineral Society is a part) this is expected to be a well-attended event once more.

Our OGMS club is participating in the planning and organization, as well as assisting in manning the various operational functions of the event. During the show participation opportunities include assisting in the Thursday, March 10 set up and room layout, manning the admission/entry gate during open hours, fluorescent room coordination help, placing individual club member display cases, Association booth sales, individual club member(s) sales tables, etc. Some club members have already volunteered to help in some of these activities, however others are still needed. If you have the time and opportunity to help, please let one of our club officers know so that volunteer lists can be completed and badges produced.

For those participating in the Thursday, March 10 set ups, please be aware there will be a Thursday evening Association provided meal for volunteers and vendors. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this at no cost.

For those members placing individual display cases, these may be brought in on Thursday afternoon. Removal at the end of the show is scheduled for 5 PM Sunday, March 13 at the closure of the show.

The show will have several special exhibits which include -

The always very popular fluorescent display/room by Dan and Connie Snow

Knapping. This year, Roy Motley will share the space with OGMS member Bear Carpenter displaying knives he has designed and produced.

Exceptionally large Oregon thunderegg/geodes by OGMS member Ed Hartl.

Kansas Moss Opal cabs (An American Fed. award winner at the 2021 RMF conference/Congress).

Victoria Stones (Another American Fed. award winner at the 2021 RMF conference/Congress).

Unique Midwest geodes, by the Friends of Mineralogy, MO Valley Chapter

A memorial to past Association members (including OGMS member Tom Lorenz)

Unique stone furniture and fountains (as displayed at the Denver show last year by German sculptor/Santa Fe resident Gerald Dumont).

A working display by famed local paleo sculptor Gary Staab, along with several of his bronze castings

An interactive Kansas Geological Survey presentation.

Missouri Mozarkite carvings/cabs, by Pleasant Hill, MO artist Bob Harms. (These are all are from the OGMS field trip site owned by the Harms family).

The ever-popular Judy Oetting Story Book Room for youth hands on opportunity.

The Mary Bergman Hamilton estate collection (A book is being produced concerning this collection).

Gem Show Coupons. Here is a link to the Association Website for any who may need additional coupons to print. [KC Gem Show Coupon](#)

And, finally but not least, OGMS members display cases exhibiting their work, special specimens, etc. (Make sure you have signed up indicating your intent to display. Each case should include a card in the upper right-hand corner identifying your name, and the name of the club (OGMS) you are representing. The Association is requesting special attempts to properly label all displayed items).

In lieu of the previous SWAP tables format, for this show club members wishing to sell their items at the show may reserve tables (\$25/day or \$60 for the three-day event). All proceeds will stay with the seller and will not have to be "Swapped" as in previous years. Make sure your name is on the list for those requesting time and tables.

Tucson Show News

The primary portion of the annual (except for last year due to Covid cancellation) Tucson Gem and Minerals Show occurred Feb. 11-13, 2022. The theme this year was Fluorescents which was a huge success by being separately highlighted in a large adjacent ballroom. (Kansas Citian Rhett Peterson is the current President of The Fluorescent Society, which was featured at the show).

While the attendance appeared to be somewhat reduced (compared to pre-Covid years), still it was well attended and final results are yet to be posted. The difference seemed to be that some of the larger exhibitors/vendors this year did not have main convention center displays, but instead had established

themselves in various other venues (as they also always do anyway) and schedules around the city. If this was a Covid concern (and it was so stated by The Mineralogical Record who is normally present) it remains to be seen if displays/vendors return to previous schedules and venues once the Covid concern abates in coming years.

Another change that affected attendees was that the organizers this year did not produce a master publication listing the numerous venues, schedules, locations, etc., but directed people to scan codes for the information they needed. This proved to be cumbersome and unreliable, and it remains to be seen if this will be the standard going forward.

That being said, the annual Tucson show continues to be the premier rock and gem event annually, and attracts exhibitors, vendors and attendees from around the world (normally in excess of 20,000 over the principal weekend). But, to those who have yet to experience this event, it is actually larger than this. Normally “snow birds”, vendors, etc. start assembling at Quartzite, AZ during Jan. (estimates are that over 1 million assemble here to begin selling, etc.). Then about Feb. 1 most everyone packs up and moves operations to Tucson where various shows, dinners, presentations, awards, etc. occur in advance of the main show at mid-Feb. Once the main show weekend is over, for the most part the entire event is over (however some vendors retain shops here year around for continuity (but obviously on a much smaller scale). Looking forward, especially if a master publication is not to be produced, attendees will be best served to do a lot of prior homework online to organize and schedule the visit to make the best use of the effort.

It is believed that several OGMS members attended Tucson this year. Not confirmed, but it is believed that Tammy and Keith Shaw, Robin and Duane Hicks, Chet and Jane McLaughlin and Norm Onnen attended - some attending both the Quartzite and Tucson segments.

The Mineral Museum

In your summer vacations (or when you go to the next Tucson gem and mineral show), if you travel through central New Mexico on I-25, it will be well worth your time and effort to stop and see the new (2015) Mineral Museum on the New Mexico Tech Campus-Socorro, New Mexico. This is an easy I-25 off and on access, it sits at the edge of the campus and is free parking and entry. These displays (replacing the 1905 museum) are so very well organized, clearly understood and spectacular that every rockhound should spend time in what has been described as the “Smithsonian of the West”. Containing over three thousand specimens (plus a scientific research collection, accessible by appointment), the facility also features rotating guest displays. One special segment contains “Coronado’s Treasure Chest”, or the El Dorado, containing gold, silver, and precious gems, and so named by the NM Cuarto-Centennial Commission.

An exciting situation concerning this museum is learning that they "provide special exhibits for mineral shows in and outside of New Mexico." We are in contact to determine if this will be possible for our March 2023 KC show. Stay tuned.

Mineral Identification and – “The Mineral Museum”

Specimen Identifications: In a review of the OGMS Directory, many members indicated a desire to learn more about rock and gem identification. Recognizing that there will be a large variance in level of individual knowledge within the membership, it would be difficult to present a program that would directly interest the broad base. It was suggested we once more devote a portion of meetings time to help identify specimens members bring in. This was a popular and well received effort in past meetings.

That being said, for a base in understanding the topic, a general recognition of mineral classification and nomenclature is helpful (without the need for an extensive knowledge base of chemistry, etc. which can come later as personal interest and understanding evolve). An early organization of this subject can be traced to James Dwight Dana who created the aptly named "System of Mineralogy" as a nomenclature tool based upon chemistry and crystallography. (This he did in 1837 at the age of only 24 - before Darwin and the time of extensive labs and equipment). The overall result (still in most accepted general use) is a system which divides minerals into **eight** basic classes. A recognition and understanding of these classes (and how one class relates to another) goes a long way into recognizing and identifying minerals. Those mineral classification are as follows:

NATIVE ELEMENTS	This is the category of the pure elements. Most minerals are made up of combinations of elements.
SILICATES	The largest group of minerals. A combination of silicon and oxygen.
OXIDES	A combination of a metal with oxygen.
SULFIDES	A compound of sulfur and a metal.
SULFATES	A compound of sulfur with metals and oxygen.
HALIDES	A combination of elements with metallic elements.
CARBONATES	A combination of minerals made of carbon, oxygen and a metallic element.
PHOSPHATES	Formed when minerals are broken down by weathering.

Finally, there are Mineraloids which are substances such as opal, jet, amber and mother of pearl that do not fit into the eight classes. Note that the other classifications all combine in some manner with a metallic component.

How does that fit into "The Mineral Museum" in Socorro, NM? This new museum exhibits the complete collection of specimens related to the Dana system (Note however the number of specimens in the "system" is ever changing as new specimens are identified — sometimes several a year, and at present is much larger than the 1837 version).

Rock & Gem Magazine

For subscribers of Rock & Gem Magazine, please be aware that information has been received of a potential scam regarding subscription renewals. Reportedly (and in my case, actually) subscribers are receiving an email indicating the subscription is about to expire, and encouraging renewals at this time at a special rate. Since my subscription period is through March 2024, I called the recently received posted magazine subscription number and was told they (Rock & Gem) were having computer problems, that the email notice was a scam, and to ignore the message. For those wanting/needing to check the date the subscription is scheduled to end, look at the day and month (right hand side of the second line of the mailing label) on your monthly magazine. That will reveal the year and month of expiration. For those wishing to call and confirm the subscription dates call the magazine posted number 855-777-2325, or email to subscriptions@beckett.com.

FIELD TRIPS:

Field trip lists so far for this year of 2022 depending on weather and permission.

Barite in Bavaria, KS

HAMM in Louisburg, KS

HAMM in Olathe, KS

Kansas Opal Dendrites in Western Kansas

Haunted Ridge Rocks Cadet, MO

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.

WEB SITE CHANGE:

As reported last month, we added a new function to our website to allow anyone wanting to know more about our club to send a request to us for more information via a "Contact Us" page. This month, we performed some tweaking to this function and have split the "Contact Us" page into two separate requests: "Membership" and "Everything Else". We expect this will help with our efficiency to provide accurate and timely information.

Dan McDaniel

RMFMS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT:

Scholarship Committee Report – 2021

Eight Rocky Mountain Federation clubs, an individual, and the RMFMS itself contributed to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation for the fiscal year of Nov. 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021. I sincerely wish to thank all those who have contributed to the Scholarship Foundation and of course the RMFMS.

The clubs, the amount they contributed, and the percentage to which that brings them are listed below. A percentage of 2500% would mean the equivalent of the club donating \$1/member for 25 years.

Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club**	\$25.00	500%	
Judy Beck**	\$50.00		
North Central Kansas Rock & Gem Club	200.00	1200%	
RMFMS	\$4,139.65		
So. Nev. Gem & Mineral Society	\$755.00	300%	
Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club	\$3,829.03	see below	
Topeka Gem & Mineral Society**	\$588.20	15800%	
Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society**		\$421.00	4800%
Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society	\$100.00	2500%	
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society**		\$350.00	6000%
 Total Donations	 \$10,457.88		

The Albuquerque Club donation is Bob Regner's Presidents Hat fine.

The donation from Judy Beck was made in memory of Emerson Tucker. Some of the donations from the Topeka Club were made in memory of Betty White and Don Anderson. Some from the Tulsa club were made in memory of Claudine Ruth Elmore, Bob Hicks, Jack Hill, and Billie Marie Need. The donations from the Wichita club were made in memory of Steven Hardin, Ralph & Arleta Seery, and Tonia Asher-Lanzrath. The Shawnee Club disbanded and donated their remaining funds to the Scholarship Foundation; I'm not sure how to count that towards an overall percentage giving; they had previously given 5400%.

Remember that through the AFMS Scholarship Foundation our RMFMS is able to award two \$4000 scholarships each year to graduate students majoring in the Earth Sciences. These donations are also an excellent way to honor members who have passed away.

Our Honorary RMFMS Scholarship Awardee for 2021 was Dr. Paul D. Brooks a professor in the Department of Geology/Geophysics at the University of Utah. He was nominated by the Wasatch Gem & Mineral Society of Riverton/Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Brooks selected an outstanding Geology graduate student, Margaret Wolf, from the University of Utah to receive one of the scholarships. He asked Dr. Dennis L. Newell, a geology professor at the Utah State University, to select the other student. Dr. Newell selected Connor Frederickson, an outstanding student at Utah State University to receive the other scholarship.

I have a bio on each of these students which I shall send you later. We have also selected the Honorary Scholarship Awardee for next year and I'll send you information on him too.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Jaeger, Scholarship Chairman

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Did the Paleo wars evolve into mineral wars?

Individuals familiar with the mid- to late-1800's fossil collecting efforts by Othneil Charles Marsh (Yale University, and of Peabody fortune) and Edward Drinker Cope (Haverford College, and later Carnegie, and family fortune) will recall that fossil wars were the result. Once friends (until Marsh embarrassed

Cope concerning a prepared fossil), Marsh and Cope became rivals in efforts to collect, prepare, identify, publish and receive credit for being the first of anything related to fossils. So much so that, spy's, threats, bribes, etc. were incorporated concerning the efforts of each. These actions are well documented in numerous books. In the end Cope was unable to compete with the depth of the Marsh fortune and influence, and when opportunity presented itself, he tried to expand interests and hoped for income in mining activities. Enter George D. Roberts and J. Whitaker Wright, mining speculators of corrupt nature, who began marketing mining stock back east (mostly in NY and PA). Somehow Cope became a prime investor in the Lake Valley Silver Mine, NM (and other mines in Mexico), and worked his way up to being President of many of the efforts (mostly on the back of investing so much of his remaining family fortune and his public recognition and fame in the paleo world).

Recently found documentation reveals that Marsh might have been involved in also entering this field — or maybe just trying to find out what Cope was involved in. There is one document indicating Marsh traveled to the Lake Valley site mixed in with a group of potential investors. What is unclear is if Cope was aware of this. Also, on another trip was Benjamin Silliman, Jr. (founder of the National Academy of Science, and a Yale associate of Marsh) who, might have been collecting intelligence. It is presently unclear if Marsh or Silliman ever invested in this mine, however Silliman eventually did an assessment report on the area mine(s) potential.

In the end Cope did lose a great portion of his remaining family fortune in Lake Valley and Mexican mines near the end of his career. There are numerous original mine stock certificates existing signed by Cope as well as mail envelopes marked “Private” with the contents presently missing. Roberts and Whitaker continued to push shady mining stock (with Whitaker committing suicide in a London courtroom upon being convicted of fraud). Silliman, Jr., along with his father were Yale professors in chemistry involved in the early development of oil distillation, and Jr. had **sillimanite** named in his honor.

In Nov. 1886, in the midst of his mining financial troubles Cope came to Lawrence, KS and gave the dedication speech for Snow Hall. (This hall was eventually demolished and replaced by the present natural history museum). His speech was partially printed in the Lawrence newspaper. At that time the University curators asked permission to publish the speech, and apparently that was agreed to, however there is no record of it within the University of the Kansas nor at the Kansas Historical Society records in Topeka. Finding Cope’s message to his wife that he was sending her a copy, we are presently trying to locate the entire speech in documents that were given to Haverford (and then transferred to Carnegie), but to date without success.

An interesting read on the Lake Valley mine, and the “Bridal Chamber” (supposedly the largest and most pure mass of silver discovered) is “Silver-Plated Deceit The Story of Mining in Lake Valley, New Mexico”.

Norm Onnen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Shows

While some 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.

Feb. through May - Topeka Dino Days - See [TopekaDinoDays](#) for exact dates and venues for three features.

Mar 3, 2022 – OGMS Club Meeting – 6:45 to 8:45

Mar 9 - 10 2022 - Assoc./OGMS Work/set up days; KC Gem and Mineral show; Wed., March 9 and Thursday, Mar. 10.

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

Mar 15, 2022 – OGMS Board Meeting – 7:00 to 8:00

Apr 2-3, 2022 – Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show

Apr 7, 2022 – OGMS Club Meeting – 6:45 to 8:45

Apr 22 - 24, 2022 – Wichita Gem and Mineral Show

May 5, 2022 – OGMS Club Meeting – 6:45 to 8:45

May 6 - 8, 2022 – McPherson Gem and Mineral Show

June 4, 2022 – OGMS Picnic

July 16-17, 2021 – TRMS Annual Gem Mineral and Jewelry Show Tulsa Country Fairgrounds-Exchange Center 4145 E. 21st St.

Tulsa, OK tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/shows