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# ROCK SOLID

## APRIL 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](http://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 - April**

Our next club meeting, (6:45 - 8: 45 PM) Thursday, April 7, 2022 at Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS will feature a presentation by Dr. Rolfe Mandel, Director of the Kansas Geological Survey. The topic will be "Searching for Evidence of the First People in the Americas; Geo-archeological Perspective". As background think of Clovis and Folsom (in NM) — and for those more informed, also consider the Calico Early Man Site (in CA) and the involvement of Louis Leakey.

### **Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMF) Notes**

The RMF is seeking club members from this region who wish to volunteer to fill various officer and committee positions for the coming year(s). The positions for officers are filled by election, and those for committees are by appointment/assignment of volunteers, and each normally run for a year (the year typically runs from the annual Congress (usually in June or July) date to the following year. If interested in learning more about the position(s) needing to be filled, please feel free to contact me so that you may be directed to the correct RMF person.

Concerning the annual Congress/Convention, the session this year will occur June 16-19, 2022 in Las Vegas, NV at the Orleans Hotel (in conjunction with the June 17-19, 2022 Southwest Nevada Gem and Mineral Society annual show). Each of the RMF clubs is allowed two voting delegates (or their proxy). If any OGMS members are interested in attending this June event, please contact me for further details. Note that unlike past RMF conventions there will be no field trips scheduled due to expected hot and dry temperatures.

### **Association March Show Notes**

The March 11-13, 2022 KC Gem and Mineral Show was by all early indications one of the best, (and most probably was the best), attended show in the 60-year history. This in spite of a late winter storm affecting everyone on Friday and Saturday. As is typical of our region, Sunday reversed itself overnight and acted like early spring. The Association will hold its next Board meeting on April 14 at which time the final results of the show will be revealed.

At the risk of being embarrassed by missing someone, we instead wish to blanket thank all of the OGMS members who volunteered and participated in this show over the five set up and actual show days. A show of this size could not be successful without the help and dedication of each of the seven organizations and their enthusiastic members making up the Association. As the largest club of the seven, OGMS continues to strongly contribute in terms of energy and effort. Thanks again for making this such a success.

Our club placed 16 display cases at this show. As previously mentioned, each club is awarded a financial stipend (usually about \$20-\$25) for each case entered. This is a welcome infusion to our operating budget, and thank you to those members who once again participated in this manner. Thanks also to

Barbara Crompton, Mike McClurg, and Ann and Mandy Lorenz for lending their display cases to other club members for the show. And now thank you again to Ann and Mandy Lorenz who have decided to donate their two cases to the club for future use (in memory of Tom Lorenz).

Related to the weather: fortunately, only two exhibitors (one from Santa Fe, NM and the other from south central KS) had to cancel, and only one vendor canceled. The exhibitor from Kansas was Bill Smith, who OGMS members may recall presented his crafted butterflies at one of our club meetings a couple of years ago. Bill, at this show, was to have exhibited his award-winning collections of Kansas moss opal cabs as well as Victoria Stone specimens. He indicates he will plan to be at the 2023 show with his collections and is developing a third special exhibit to bring along. (As a side note, Bill and his wife have a small gem and mineral museum adjacent to their home in Harper, Kansas. and would welcome OGMS visitors passing through the area - and it's practically on the way to selenite collecting in Jet, OK).

Of this show special exhibits, the OGMS was involved in the contents of three special display cases. The first containing the Tibetan jeweled prayer wheels and turquoise (the estate of Dr. McReynolds of Warrensburg, MO) and three carved oriental pieces (from Larry Wells) received numerous comments as to the history and use of the wheels. The second case contained several unusually large thundereggs personally collected and face polished by OGMS member Ed Hartl. And the third case contained Mozarkite items designed and produced by Bob Harms. All of the Mozarkite came from the Harms family Cole Camp, MO site that the OGMS members collect on exclusively each year.

### **Oak Park Mall Sightings**

In spite of COVID, have you been to the Oak Park Mall recently? First of all, there is a gem and mineral kiosk on the main level owned and operated by OGMS members Lee Mader and Vicky Ritter. They are also in the process of opening a store front shop on the upper level (on the link between the food court area and Nordstroms), that will include gems and minerals as well as a related museum. The name of the kiosk and store/museum is "Crystals and More". You'll be surprised at the quality and variety of items displayed.

Also in the mall, just around the corner from Crystals and More, is "Custom Tees". This shop, unaffiliated with Lee and Vicky, was recently visited by OGMS members Steve and Laura Woltman at which time they had the vendor digitally capture the OGMS logo. It was then embroidery applied to hooded sweatshirts. (See photos). The vendor has retained the digital file and can apply this to clothing items bought at the store, or to items brought in. They can also generate patches. (The OGMS logo was designed by the Woltman's daughter as the winning entry in our design contest).





## **FIELD TRIPS:**

### **Hamms Quarry – Eudora**

Trip to the HAMM quarry in Eudora, KS April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am. If you would like to attend, contact Leslie by April 6<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for emails for updates because if Eudora doesn't work out then we will have to change to Louisburg, KS instead.

### **Selenite**

Saturday, April 30, 2022, Salt Plains 66003 Garvin Rd Cherokee, OK 73728. At this location you can dig for selenite in the salty sand. Watch for emails for the time and updates.

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**

### **RMFMS Newsletter**

If you missed the email, the RMFMS Newsletter for February is available at the following link for your perusal. [RMFMS News](#)

### **Arm Chair Prospecting**

Mona Lisa Turquoise/Arkansas

While searching for a gem and mineral club in Arkansas for a friend, the Google quest took a turn to the NW Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society (which while not in the area of the Rocky Mountain Federation, still functions as such). Their website is interesting in that it lists the club field trip activities — which interestingly includes a piece several years ago about collecting turquoise in of all places — ARKANSAS! It turns out there have been several turquoise mines in Arkansas, primarily in Polk (and lessor so in Gilham) County. Of the five listed mines, the 8.74-acre Mona Lisa mine (now closed) gets the most attention and in fact is the popular name given to turquoise from the area. Ownership and use

is overseen by the Bureau of Land Management in the Jackson, Arkansas field office under serial number ESMC 12164. While the mine is closed it still appears the local club occasionally has collecting rights, and may be worth contacting them if you are on your way to collect quartz crystals or diamonds in nearby counties.

Norm Onnen

### **Treating Gems and Minerals**

It has long been considered inappropriate to treat (heating, dying, etc.) gems and minerals, and in fact many will not purchase or have in their collections any specimens that have been artificially altered. But over time treating certain specimens has become understood and accepted, thus making a worthless and colorless specimen into a more marketable form. This has been true in the case, and readily advertised, for Montana sapphires which are routinely sent overseas to be heated resulting in the sky-blue coloration so desired. And it has been the case for topaz which in a breakthrough was developed by Charles Lock Key and his partner in 1970. From his obituary (1935 - 2021) it has been described that "he began experimenting with ways to turn worthless colorless topaz into a more marketable form. Gamma radiation had a modest but insufficient effect on the color, so he scouted about for other possible treatments. The breakthrough came when he placed topaz crystals in an electron accelerator, and the crystals turned a dark brown color. Further experimentation showed that heat-treating the brown crystals caused them to turn a deep and vibrant blue. The color was permanent and was distributed evenly throughout the crystals. The colorless topaz was purchased for around \$10/kilogram, and after treatment was sold for \$7,500/kilogram - a 750-fold mark-up. Soon they were selling over a million dollars in treated topaz (40,000 carats at \$30 - \$35/carats) every month." Quite a success story, and readily accepted. (The Mineralogical Record; March-April 2022. Vol. 53; No. 2).

### **Etc.**

Why did the Granite miss work today?

Because he Felsic! (Geological explanation of felsic: An adjective applied to an igneous rock having abundant light-colored minerals (quartz, feldspars, muscovite, etc. such as is present in granites).

Norm Onnen

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Upcoming Shows**

If you have interest in any of the shows listed here, please check the status of shows and promoter notices.

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

**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**

**May 6 - 8, 2022 – Central Missouri Rock & Mineral Show**  
Columbia, MO

**May 14 - 15, 2022 - Rocks Rule St Louis -Pacific, MO [RocksRuleSt!](#)**

**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](https://tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/shows)

**June 24 - 26, 2022 - Kansas City, MO; Shows of Integrity Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Bead Show;  
KCI Expo Hall**

**June 24 -26, 2022 – Osage (Eldon, MO) rock and Mineral Show.**

**July 30, 2022 – Sioux (Canton, SD) 5th Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show**

**Oct. 15 - 16, 2022 – Des Moines 2022 Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show; Iowa State Fairgrounds**

**Oct. 21 - 23, 2022 – National Fossil Exposition XLIII; Springfield, IL; Orr Building; IL State Fairgrounds**

**Oct. 29 - 30, 2022 – 2022 OK Mineral and Gem Society Show**

**Nov. 4 - 6, 2022 – KC G&M Show; KCI Expo Hall**

**Nov. 12 - 13, 2022 – Omaha G&M Show; UNO Scott Conference Center**

**Mar. 10 - 12, 2023; – KC G&M Show; KCI Expo Hall**