



ROCK SOLID

MARCH 2023 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 2022 – 2023:

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: Lesliee Hartman (785)380-6016

Field Trip Coordinator: Lesliee 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:

Welcome to the flurry of activity proceeding our March 10-12, 2023 Gem and Mineral Show. Now, during this pause, we look forward to seeing our OGMS members, visitors, and guests at our next regular club meeting (Thursday evening, March 2) where we will eagerly welcome a presentation by Tom Tivol about pearls. Please review the details below regarding the gem and mineral show, and if necessary, contact the appropriate person(s) for any questions and/or arrangements you might be involved in. Thanks to all who have been involved in the planning of this event, and for your participation in making the show a continuing success for The Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City (of which our OGMS is a member).

March 10-12, 2023 61st Annual KC Gem and Mineral Show

Volunteers — The list of volunteers (16 members to date) and their contact information for the show has been submitted to Kara Paris (heads the organization and assignment schedule for the show). If you are one of those who have indicated participation as a volunteer, you should have, and/or soon will be contacted by Kara. If needed, her contact information is 816 682 5622; threetrails@sbcglobal.net

Club Case Displays — **WANTED, wanted, wanted.....** Our club benefits for each display case our members place during the March G&M shows. Presently we have indications that individuals will place 11 cases for display during this upcoming show. With that, **I have 5 additional case and we are looking for club members to borrow these and exhibit samples of your G&M related collections, work, etc. The cases that are available are 25" x 30" (with the top 4" high in the front and 7" high in the rear (3 such cases), and another two cases are 19" x 25" (with the top 4" high).**

Sales (SWAP) tables — A list of those intending to have sales (SWAP) tables has been put together by Leslie Hartman (managing that effort for the Association). Those participating should have signed a contract, scheduled required volunteer participation in regard to having these tables, submitted a fee, etc. Tables/spaces, etc. have been assigned. Contact information for Leslie is 785-380-6016; hartman.12345@hotmail.com

"Fill the Bucket" — Thanks to all who helped Chet McLaughlin (and the Association) in our "Fill the Bucket" effort at our Feb. club meeting. These donations help our club member Chet McLaughlin (who leads the Association booth at the shows) and the educational/scholarship fund of the Association.

Additional donations are still being solicited and may be brought to our March 2 meeting. THANK YOU ONCE MORE, and for what Chet does on our and the Associations behalf. Lots of time, effort, and miles.

Food — During the show, the Association has a room containing refreshments for show workers/participants. Note that this is independent of the snack bar/cafeteria vendor for the EXPO center and is a unique arrangement with the Association. As such all food/drinks must be consumed in

the designated room (and not shared with show visitors). Food items and \$\$\$ donations to this effort are solicited/welcomed.

Meetings/Programs, etc.

March 2, 2023. Presentation by Tom Tivol on "Pearls". We anticipate that, in addition to other relevant facts, Mr. Tivol, will explain his Feb. club meeting reference that overseas pearls are much more revered than diamonds.

Perhaps relevant, from a "dictionary" from the reign of Emperor K'ang Hsi (A.D. 1662-1722) - - "If jade is discarded and pearls destroyed, petty thieves will disappear, there being no valuables left to steal."

April 6 and May 4 meetings. Programs TBD.

No scheduled club meetings June, July and August. BUT we will have our annual summer picnic Sat., June 3 - and watch for field trips and other events to be announced. Resume regular club meetings Sept. 7, 2023.

Insights?

What is it that confers the noblest delight? What is that which swells a man's breast with pride above that which any experience can bring to him? Discovery! To know that you are walking where none others have walked; that you are beholding what human eye has not seen before; that you are breathing a virgin atmosphere. To give birth to an idea - to discover a great thought - an intellectual nugget under the dust of a field that many a brain-plow gone over before... To be the first - that is the idea. To do something, say something, see something before anybody else - these are the things that confer a pleasure compared with which other pleasures are tame and commonplace... These are the men who have really lived - who have actually comprehended what pleasure is - who have crowded long lifetimes of ecstasy into a single moment." Mark Twain, *Innocents Abroad* (1869).

One would think the above was written by a vendor at the annual March Gem and Mineral shows urging someone to purchase a geode for them to be cracked, with the buyer being the very first to view and appreciate the wonders of the crystals it contains. Mark Twain might be given some measure of credibility (if his statement were about geodes) in that he grew up along the Mississippi River in Hannibal, MO which is the southern edge of the the tri-state (IA/IL/MO) famous geode area which he was surely exposed to and aware of.

Cochineal Beetle alert.

The Pantone Color Institute (a year 2000 self-proclaimed authority and expert on choosing the "color of the year" - for all that are unable to make that choice on their own) has chosen Magenta as the "unconventional shade for an unconventional time" - - that apparently in reference to the year 2023. In doing so Pantone cites the Cochineal Beetle which is the source of carmine dye - a magenta-colored natural dye. (Sad day for a cochineal beetle!), This beetle, a native to South America and into Mexico and the SW United States, lives primarily on the prickly pear cactus, is brushed off and dried, producing

carminic acid (17-24% of the dried insects' weight) which when mixed with aluminum or calcium salts results in carmine dye (AKA cochineal). This is also used as a colorant in food and lipstick - and now paints, etc. for 2023.



The history of the “color of the year” stresses select names to hype the selection - such as “Classic Blue” in 2000, “Illuminating Yellow/Ultimate Gray” in 2021; “Veri Peri” in 2022, and now “Viva Magenta” in 2023 (which is claimed to imply: animated, dynamic, rebellious, optimistic, audacious and inclusive to name a few.) Does this sound like someone trying to craft a description on a new wine on the market?

Anyway, the gem and mineral industry has joined the trend and is naming “magentaverse” natural and synthetic gemstones “that radiate in tones “that are perfectly balanced” to feature in 2023 jewelry designs. Five suggestions are 1). Padparadscha sapphires (for the color of a lotus flower), 2), Rubellite Tourmaline (ranging from bright pink to red), 3). Ruby, 4). Spinel and 5). Watermelon Tourmaline. (Reference: 2023 Tucson Show Guide and the Pantone Color Institute).

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show Report

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society hosted the 68th Annual Gem and Mineral Show - this year from Feb. 8-12, 2023, and as usual it was a spectacular event which is preceded by numerous individual shows and events (stretching from Quartzsite, AZ in all of Jan. into Tucson at the start of Feb.) Several OGMS members (IDs withheld to protect those who overspent) were seen and reported to have attended many of the venues and related shows. The main event theme this year was “Silica; Agates & Opals & Quartz”, and the convention center was filled with special exhibits from all of the major museums across the country (including the Smithsonian, the Natural History Museum, Rice Museum, the new Alfie Norville G&M Museum in Tucson, etc.).

For those involved in the hobby, and interested in gem and mineral shows, the Tucson (and maybe extended to Quartzsite) should be experienced at least once. That being said, those intending to visit should do their homework and be prepared concerning schedules, venues, etc. The experience can be overwhelming if unprepared. The event seems to be changing year-by-year in that exhibitors are flexing their involvement and schedules (i.e., some of the major exhibitors who normally would be the dominant presence at the convention center have moved their operations, and schedule to various other venues around the area - and apparently some are now invitation only to certain activities and presentations). It is best advised to obtain programs, maps, schedules prior to visiting the various activities, etc., and allow sufficient time - especially if new or uninformed to the vastness and timing involved in making the best use of the experience. While I always make time for the main convention

show, every year I leave understanding that the next year I need to be better informed and have a schedule planned to make the best use of the experience.

The next Tucson show (the 69th annual show) will be Feb. 8-11, 2024 and the theme is “Pegmatites; Crystals Big & Beautiful”. As competition, the Denver show is gradually becoming larger and popular (and more convenient to Kansas City), and a show in Germany is a popular emerging attraction. Now, a new show — Honolulu (Nov. 10-12, 2023) is being advertised. (Take your surf boards).

GIA News - from Tucson

Established in 1931, the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has long been recognized as a nonprofit organization that serves the public through research, education and lab services. Within the GIA is maintained a field gemologist unit that travels the world investigating mines and collecting samples for the gemstone reference collection which currently contains 26,002 colored gemstone samples. This “library” of samples includes corundum, emeralds, spinels, alexandrites and more, and continues to grow. Dr. Aaron Palke, GIA Senior Manager of Research and Colored Stone Identification, recently collected ruby in matrix from the Aappaluttoq ruby mine in Greenland, has visited Mogok, Myanmar four times (for rubies and other gems), and next year will travel to Guyana to investigate their alluvial green diamonds. The importance of maintaining a colored gemstone research collection revolves around country of origin and gemstone treatments which are becoming increasingly difficult to confirm. An example cites that heat treatment used to be detected by observing inclusions, however now many are being treated through low temperature heat processes which can leave inclusions intact (but leaves obvious traces detectable via a stone’s unique spectroscopy. (Reference: GIA, “From the lab to the Field: Pursuing Answers to Gemological Enigmas”).

Hot off the Press

In the Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023 Kansas City Star newspaper, two articles of interest, both millions (and the later billions) of years old. The first highlights, under the heading “Phenix Rising”, the opening this coming week of the new KCI terminal in which a signature wall of the new structure features a 30’ high by 732’ long stretch of “Phenix Napoleon” gray marble quarried from near Ash Grove, MO. This unique 350-million-year-old (eons before dinosaurs) material, is a limestone that is so pure and unaltered by intense heat and pressure (metamorphism, which would have technically made it marble) that it is referred to as a marble. Its quality is such that it has been used for the south steps of the White House, a wall at CIA Headquarters (no pictures allowed), the inside (and now exterior) of the MO statehouse renovations, etc. Formally known as Carthage limestone, this material is distinctive with its pureness, density, grain-like waves and lines resembling a seascape, and ability to take a high polish, unlike typical limestones.

The second piece describes research that now identifies the earth to be made up of 5 layers instead of 4 (crust, mantle, liquid and outer core). The newly determined 400-mile-thick component (at 4,000 miles below the earth’s surface) is a dense, solid metallic ball or inner core (inside the previously understood molten core) which has formed only in the past 1 billion years, a result of iron-nickel alloy compaction

and solidification. It is understood that this is growing outward, crating convection currents which generates the earth's magnetic current.

FIELD TRIPS:

I am looking into a few places to start either February or March to begin the field trip depending on weather.

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.

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Maya Exhibit at Union Station

The Maya exhibit, currently extended, at Union Station will close on March 12, 2023 (the same day our March Gem and Mineral show closes). Everyone is urged to take advantage of this "The Great Jaguar Rises" Mayan exhibit and view the amazing pieces of Jadeite (not nephrite) work - - some examples below. Note that this exhibit has been supplemented in these closing weeks by a display of "Inspired by Maya" art exhibit.

(Chalchihuites = Jade) An interesting side note is that while the Mayans (and Aztec and Olmec) exclusively used jadeite (as opposed to nephrite which they cast aside per Fred Ward ("Jade", 1996)) the labeling in the exhibit leads to confusion in that some are identified as "jade", "jaidete" and "jadeite" - some on the same object. Also, the label on the blades (second photo) is "silex", a term used generally as a ground stone, usually a form of near pure silica or silicate. These blades are however a chert or flint (jadeite and nephrite used, in addition to jewelry pieces and pageantry, primarily for larger pieces such as hatchet blades and chopping devices commensurate to the materials' toughness and resilience.)



N. Onnen

Lagerstätten

Literally translated from German as “deposits”, this word has come to mean a “fossil bonanza”, a place where fossils are particularly numerous, unique, etc., (but in modern terms is without license captured for convenience to describe especially significant assemblages of whatever is of interest.

So, at the Baker Wetlands visitor center adjacent to Lawrence, KS, was found “The Permian Insect Fossils of Elmo, Kansas” (a booklet by The Kansas School Naturalist - of Emporia State University). This generally describes a lagerstätten, the world class, and renown, Permian (245 to 280 million years ago) over 15,000 insect fossils excavated from a quarry near Elmo (Dickinson County) Kansas beginning about 1902. Among many other insects from this site are the very large part and counterpart (some up to 30” wide wingspans) dragonfly fossils. This quarry had been filled as a protective measure and closed in the 1940’s, however has been re-opened and was being worked under lease by a team from Hays, KS [Presumably from Ft. Hays State University]. Contemporaneously is identified the Midco Noble and Kay Counties), Oklahoma site (about 140 miles from Elmo) where about 8,000 similar aged fossils were recovered from 1940 and 1957.

And then at the Kansas Geological Survey office and the KU campus was found “Ghawker”, The Geoscience at the University of Kansas magazine for fall 2023. In this issue are three items of OGMS and local interest. The first is “A Critical Need”, an article detailing a grant to study critical minerals being performed by a team led by Franek Hasiuk, project joint primary investigator and KGS geologist. OGMS members who attended the Nov. 2021 club meeting will recall the excellent presentation on this subject by Mr. Hasiuk. Secondly, an article entitled “They Glowed, Spider Fossils lead Geologists to Answers” describing the pandemic recess idle time discovery of Oligocene Period (between 23-34 million years ago) fossilized spiders, that through a process of preservation (very unusual for soft bodied plants and animals) involving silica and calcium are unexpectedly fluorescent. (This is being forward to Dan Snow who gives the fluorescent demonstration the March G&M shows, hopefully in time to be discussed this year). Finally, an article entitled “Geologists Help Identify Unmarked Graves” in which a project by KGS Science Outreach Manager Blair Schneider use ground penetrating radar and techniques that identify differences in electrical and magnetic signatures in ground disturbances. Ms. Schneider is the person leading the KSG demonstration at our last (and this next) March G&M show. Her work is very timely in the sense that a report in the Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 KC Star describes an effort just underway in Lawrence trying to find the unmarked grave of an individual who was killed by a vigilante group before 1900. (Still unsubstantiated, her work might relate to giant silver specimens found by such means in western AZ and featured at the 2022 Tucson G&M show. These specimens now reside in the new Alfie Norville Museum in Tucson).

N. Onnen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Events and Shows

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

Mar 2 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM

Mar 8, 9 – **KC Gem and Mineral Show – Set Up**

Mar 10 – 12 – **KC Gem and Mineral Show; KCI Expo Hall**

Mar 12 – Last day of the Maya Exhibit. Union Station, Kansas City, MO

Apr 1, 2 – Lincoln Gem and Mineral Show <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/annual-show>

Apr 6 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM

Apr 21 - 23 – Wichita Gem and Mineral Show, Cessna Activity Center
<https://wichitagemandmineralsociety.org/show/>

May 4 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM

May 5 – 7 – McPherson Gem and Mineral Club show.

May 12 - 14 – Central Missouri Rock and Mineral Show
<https://cmrlc.org/rock-%26-mineral-show>

Jun 2, 3 – Ozarks Gem and Mineral, Springfield Rock & Gem Fair
<https://ogms.rocks/events/>

Jun 3 – OGMS Annual summer picnic at Kill Creek Park

Jul 14 - 16 – Rocky Mountain Federation Congress, Casper, WY

Jul 15, 16 – Tulsa Rock and Mineral Show
<https://tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/shows>

Feb 8 – 11, 2024 – The 69th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show will feature “Pegmatites; Crystals Big and Beautiful”. Tucson Convention Center.