



ROCK SOLID

APRIL 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: 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:

Spring has Sprung

The busy times of the annual March gem and mineral show in Kansas City has made us all anxious for spring, a quick rest, and a re-direction of our interests to outdoor activities (and all things rocks, minerals and fossils, spring breaks, vacations, etc.). It also gives us pause from the procrastination (until the next winter) of sorting our collections, labeling specimens, finishing cabs and/or faceting, developing bucket lists, etc. - - all of which we can, and usually do, add to on a routine basis. So, in the process of eagerly continuing or enhancing our respective hobby activities, welcome back to a hopefully more normal post-Covid time. As a brief status report of our club, during the pandemic we have grown our membership, re-established our normal meeting(s) schedules, had very informative club programs which have been well attended by members, quests and visitors, have become a 501.c.3 non-profit organization, and re-confirmed our meeting location into the immediate future - - as well as being financially stable.

All things to the positive, and we look forward to the continuation of this vibrant OGMS (the largest in the KC area - - which consists of the Show-Me and the Independence clubs), and the second largest in the state of Kansas - - which consists of five clubs. (Olathe, Topeka (the largest, but not by much), Wichita, McPherson and North Central KS).

April Club Meeting

Our Thursday evening, April 6, 2023, club meeting will be a slight departure from previous meetings (in part in response to occasional comments indicating the desire to have more time to visit and socialize with member and guest/visitor attendees).

With that, this April "program" will feature **(PART 1)** a presentation from an interesting (and somewhat relevant to OGMS) K-State student, (not a Sweet-16 basketball player) followed by **(PART 2)** a 'show-n-tell" period in which members are asked to bring in and show their recent (March show, Tucson and/or vacation) acquisitions of interest.

(NOTE: We still must be out of the building by 8:45 - 9:00 PM so that the security system can be activated)

Our K-State student speaker will be Quinton Mindrup, a former Olathe High School graduate and Geoscience Academy participant. His presentation is entitled "Ignimbrites of Peninsula Concepcion (Baja California Sur". Quinton is the first recipient of the Tom Lorenz scholarship. (See below for a further explanation of "Ignimbrites" and the scholarship).

EKGMOWECHASHALA - - - (and a future, yet to be scheduled meeting)

Try saying "Ekgmowechashala" more than once without blinking - and wondering what this has to do with our OGMS. As it turns out this has to do with Kathleen L. Rust, a PhD Candidate, Self-Graduate Fellow, with the University of Kansas Ecology and Evolution Biology/KU Biodiversity Institute who has research interest in Ekgmowechashala (or "EKG" - - my own shortened non-medical term in this instance). Ms. Rust was originally slated to be the program at our April 6 club meeting, but has had to postpone due to a scheduling conflict. However, now this program is being re-scheduled for a future

date (watch our Bulletin for a new date) and will give us time to Google and do our own preliminary research to become familiar with whatever the EKG is. (Maybe on a family tree of interest?). That being said, in brief, EKG is apparently an extinct genus of primate (the only known North American primate of the late Oligocene and early Miocene - - in the range of 33 - 5 million years ago). Attributed to the warm Rocky Mountain forests (of the time since North America then straddled the equator) by fossil teeth and apparent diet, fossil evidence of EKG has been found on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation (South Dakota), in Nebraska, in N. Dakota, on the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (Oregon) and on the Toledo Bend Ranch (in far eastern Texas). Interesting side note. K Christopher Beard, at KU (a co-author on papers relating to EKG type extinct primates, which are of interest to Ms. Rust) is the KU Senior Curator at the KU Biodiversity Institute, Distinguished Foundation Fellow, and a year 2000 recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Award".

Ignimbrites

Not necessarily in the vocabulary of a standard midwestern rock hound, the term "ignimbrite" begs further explanation. As such Wikipedia, the Dictionary of Geological Terms, and various other sources, generally explains that this is a type of volcanic rock. (Latin "igni" = **rai**, and "imbri" = **rain**). The consistency is hardened tuff forming from pyroclastic flowing matter (a hot suspension of ash composed of lithic pieces, glass shards, and crystal fragments, and very rapidly flowing gases (**nuee ardente or glowing cloud**)). That is the quick and simplified explanation, the keys being "hardened tuff", and "rapidly flowing", along with recognition of the type of disposition - - that being of two varieties, "**en masse**" and "**progressive aggradation**". Geologists who specialize in the study of ignimbrites have significant occurrences of the material to view, the most massive and common being in New South Wales, the Coromandel region of New Zealand and large parts of the Sierra Madre Occidental in western Mexico - - these hardly available to casual U.S. rock hound. In the United States, massive ignimbrite deposits can be found in the Basin and Range Province of Nevada, western Utah, southern Arizona, and north-central and southern New Mexico, and the southern Snake River Plain. These flows began about 40 million years ago and ended 25 million years ago (in the Basin and Range Province), and continued until about 14 million years ago in Nevada. The scale of these were enormous, being compared to such as the Yellowstone Caldera in volume. (An Explosivity Index of 8). (A Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) ranges from 0-8, with 8 being a "massive-colossal explosive eruption. The scale is logarithmic, as in earthquake recognition, with each interval being on the scale representing a tenfold increase).

March 10-12, 2023 KC Gem and Mineral Show

Pending the next Association Board meeting, Thursday, April 13, the results of the recent G&M show are anticipated to be very positive. The seven clubs of the Association all participated on a high and energetic level to accommodate (most likely to be realized) a record attendance. While the figures are preliminary, OGMS had 22 volunteers involved the show planning and execution, placed 22 personal display cases, manned 7 sales/SWAP tables, donated numerous buckets of rocks and minerals to help Chet 's efforts in the Association booth, donated many items to the silent and live auctions, and displayed three special exhibits - - all record involvement for our club. Also, most of our OGMS

members were able to attend at least one day of the show (many were there for the two-day set up as well as for the three days of the show). Thank you one and all for making this another successful show. The official results will be reported in our next Bulletin.

Spring Excursion – Altoona, KS

Saturday, March 25 found several club members headed to Altoona, Kansas for our first field trip of the year. In spite of overnight rain in the Kansas City area, and across the plains to the south of our destination, the target location proved to be dry and perfect (close to 60 degrees by mid-day) for this initial event. (And the early morning drive down 169 Highway was very pleasant with gradually viewing the early blooming of the trees and bushes the further south one traveled, something not yet underway in KC). Fossils were the expectation, and this proved to be the case with fossil sponges, algae, crinoids, and numerous invertebrates being collected from the Pennsylvanian deposits. Visited were three sites, all easily accessible and prolific. The first stop was a massive Highway 47 road cut just 1-1/2 miles west of Altoona where many *Maeandrosia* tubular, (probable *Heliospongia*) multi-fingered sponges were found, the most complete ones clearly displaying the external pores, buds and osculum. (See "Ancient Life; Found in Kansas Rocks" p. 16), and "Windows of the Past - A Guidebook to Common Invertebrate Fossils of Kansas" pgs. 39-41). Also prolific were the beadlike strings of *Amblysiponella*. At the lower level, easily assessable, was a shelf containing slabs of crinoids, and invertebrates (there was one report of trilobite tracks) which when cleaned will make nice display pieces.

Of the fossil algae collected, there are two significant species normal to this location - *Archeolithophyllum missouriense* and *A. lamellosum*. (See Google "Archeolithophyllum, an Abundant Calcareous Alga in Limestones of the Lansing Group (Pennsylvanian, Southeastern Kansas)"). Of these, it will take some post-trip cleaning to determine which was found/collected. It is anticipated that edge/face polishing of select pieces will be attractive, suspecting some stabilization will be required. It was found that most of the sponge and alga found here are fluorescent.

Then onward to two similar, but smaller, and not quite as assessable locations. These were 1.1 miles further west of the first location (to Ottawa Road - - also ID'd on a Google map as the "Million Dollar Highway" - - however several conflicting descriptions for this name are confusing), and then 2.7 and another 1.6 miles south respectively from the Highway 47 and Ottawa Road corner. At these two locations the road cuts are more abrupt to the road, steeper, and not as easily accessed as the first site. Also, to my finding, the fossils, while similar, were not as plentiful - - but these sites are still worth exploring and should not be overlooked.

An interesting side note was the visit by local resident/farmer Kenny Carter who stopped by with an Indian artifact he had found. Mr. Carter is full of area history and clearly would welcome visiting with all rock hounds. Altoona is a small town (just over 300 residents) and has a rich history (being on the west edge of the tri-state zinc/lead mining area), and due to then very plentiful shallow natural gas supplies, at one time was home to a glass plant (the silica sand shipped in from Illinois), a robust brick factory and several other industries - all of which have closed with the depletion of the gas supply. I have Mr. Carter's contact information if anyone hunts fossils nearby and would like to visit history with him.

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMF and RMFMS)

The next Rocky Mountain Federation (annual) Congress will be held July 14-16, 2023 in Casper, WY (in conjunction with the Wyoming State Mineral & Gem Society, Inc., and hosted by the Natrona County Rockhounds Club) as the 75th Annual Rock Show. I will be attending as the OGMS delegate to the Congress. (The show, events and convention location is the Ramkota Hotel, 800 N. Poplar, Casper, WY. Special convention rates apply with the mention of the Rocky Mountain Federation Congress, Phone # 307 266 6000).

Everyone is invited to attend the show (you do not need to be a delegate, except to attend the business meeting(s) and vote on issues), and the attractive and popular feature of these conventions continues to be the field trips arranged in each instance. In this case the following field trips have been scheduled:

Friday, July 14, 2023

Sweetwater agates (leaving the hotel ballroom parking lot at 7:30 AM)

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Shirley Basin Petrified Wood & Blue Botryoidal Agates (leaving the hotel ballroom parking lot at 7:30 AM)

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Prairie Agate and Banded Iron (leaving the hotel ballroom parking lot at 7:30 AM)

For those who may be unfamiliar, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (the parent) is made up of seven regional societies (CA, South Central, Southeastern Eastern, Midwest, Northwest and Rocky Mountain) of which the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is the entity that our Olathe Gem and Mineral Society is a member. The RMFMS consists of clubs in 13 states (AZ, AR (part.), CO, KS, NE (part.), NV, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, UT, AND WY) and has approximately 9000 members in 78 clubs. The clubs adhere to the American Federation Code of Ethics.

Each year the RMF publishes a directory, a copy of which is maintained in the OGMS library and is valuable in contacting other RMF clubs, officers, etc. especially for information to be gained about upcoming shows, collecting locations, etc. This is especially valuable when planning vacations and field trips.

OLATHE GEOSCIENCE ACADEMY

At our Jan. 5, 2023 OGMS club meeting, a portion of the program was presented by three Olathe High School students and their science instructor Staci Cavanaugh, of the Olathe Geoscience Academy. Clearly "the Academy" is a very vibrant and active program whose elective students "have a desire to study the earth and its processes" via Geoscience which is described as "critical issues such as water and mineral resources, stewardship of the environment, along with studies in meteorology, oceanography, marine biology, paleontology and more." One of the students was Olathe East High School senior Pranav Puppala who has now exhibited his keystone project entitled "Comparing Morphology of Deinocheirus Miriflcus and Ornithmizarus to Establish Feeding Habits" (at the March 29 - April 1, 2023 72nd Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair in Union Station). (Interestingly of the 68 Senior Division Projects entered in the Fair, 37 were from the Geoscience Academy, a significant tribute to the impact of the program which is administrated by Marsha Skoczek with Staci Cavanaugh).

Of additional Academy interest is our April program speaker, Quniton Mindrup, a 2020 graduate of the Olathe High School and a Geoscience Academy participant. He is presently enrolled at K-State in the geology program and is the first recipient of the Tom Lorenz scholarship (the scholarship established by the Lorenz family in honor and memory of Tom Lorenz a long time OGMS and Association member and officer). Finally, it has recently been learned that Quinton nominated Staci Cavanaugh for Kansas State University High School Science Teacher of the Year for Geology and Staci won.

And, lastly, the Geoscience Academy graciously donated many mineral and rock samples to OGMS, for further donation to the Association booth at the recent gem and mineral show.

New Members (Since Jan. 1, 2023)

Erin Eggerman	Overland Park, KS. Interested in “everything”
Connee Onnen	Belton, MO. Interested in minerals and fossils.
Megan Baker	Lansing, KS. Renewal
Noah Baker	Lansing, KS
Doug Bridwell	Overland Park, KS. Renewal
Galen Miller	Gardner, KS. Interested in crystals.
Julie Luedtke	Olathe, KS. Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making, crystals, minerals, fossils.
Mitch Luedtke	Olathe, KS. Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making, crystals, minerals, fossils.
Nancy Moyer	Lawrence, KS. Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making, crystals, minerals, fossils.

Help Wanted

Remember the OGMS club Directory????? (For new members, the directory lives in the Members Only page of our website). The directory has been in limbo since the start of Covid and needs to be re-started/updated to include new members and revisions of contact information, interests, etc. If you have some photography and computer/editing skills, and would like to help this endeavor please contact Dan McDaniel for more information.

Next, looking for a member(s) who would like to work with a local Parks and Rec. Dept. to put together information and materials for a short summer camp that will focus on history of the area. Our club involvement would be to put together about a 30–45-minute program to discuss area fossils and geology. Of interest would be to include some hands-on, take-home items. The age group is anticipated to be 7-12 years old and consist of 16 individuals maximum. The camp will be early summer.

FIELD TRIPS:

The next field trip will be April 29th to the Waverly Quarry, KS. Some items that have been found here are: part of a shark tooth, crinoid parts, brachiopods, coral, sponges, bryozoa, etc.

Date and Time: April 29th at 10:00AM

Meeting Place: TA Travel Center

2775 US-75 Lebo, KS 66856

Contact Lesliee Hartman at Hartman.12345@hotmail.com if you are going.

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

Mozarkite Discussion

There was an impromptu meeting/discussion of sorts at the March gem and mineral show involving the recognition and naming of "mozarkite". There has long been a controversy regarding this topic, and I initiated the meeting of multiple views on the subject, taking advantage of several persons of interest being in the same place at once. Present were Bill Smith of Harper, Kansas (who displayed mozarkite cabs at our show this year, the rough having been obtained from Marv Dahmen who unfortunately was not present to defend his views), Dan and Connie Snow (of the Show Me club and having some mozarkite articles and knowledge of the subject history, and who knew Marv), and Bob Harms (son of the owner of the property near Lincoln, MO where OGMS collects the material) . Bob came with documentation in hand strongly supporting that his father was involved in the naming of mozarkite and pushing the issue through the 1967 MO legislature. In the end it appears all are in agreement (that Bob Harm's version is accurate) and the mozarkite wars are abated. A little further back in time we find a Sept. - Oct., 1964 letter to Rocks and Minerals magazine from Mae Bell McCluskey (Collinsville, Illinois) describing their trip to Lincoln, MO to collect "ozarkite". No one seems to know who might have first named the material ozarkite, or if there was any controversy in the name change.

N. Onnen

“Jelinite” Sighting

At the recent March gem and mineral show there was a sighting of the very rare “Jelinite” (which in an article was once described as “The Holy Grail of Kansas”). This material, a fossil resin - or amber, while used by early settlers, was first documented as being discovered and/or collected, by George Jeliinek (1937-1938) within the Smoky Hills physiographic province of Kansas. This location, on the Smoky River, is now under the Kannapolis Reservoir west of Salina, Kansas. Perhaps the present owner of this exceptional piece (see accompanying photo), Mark Sherwood of Oak Grove, MO, and a IGAMS member, can be coaxed into displaying it at a future G&M show. In the interim there is one piece on display at the Kansas Geological Survey building on the KU campus (a part of the displayed collection of Robert F. Walters (deceased)), and I’m told that a retired Emporia State University educator has a private collection consisting of a few pieces of the material. Attempts are underway to try to have this rare later mentioned collection displayed at a future KC Gem and Mineral show.



N. Onnen

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)

AFMS Scholarships Information. Identified as the “AFMS Endowment Fund”, the parent Federation, on behalf of the six of the seven regional federations, annually gives two scholarships per region to applicant individuals involved in earth science studies in recent years (\$4000 has been awarded to each individual), the funding of which originates from the regions. As a part of this, the AFMS holds a raffle with the drawing occurring at the AFMS annual conference, (the next being in Billings, MT in August). Prizes are solicited and donated from the various regions and normally consist of jewelry, crystals, fossils, books or other related items, each valued from \$75 to \$200.

The following is a letter from Richard Jaeger, AFMS Endowment Fund representative for RMFMS:

AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND by Richard Jaeger

I am the Rocky Mountain Federation Regional Chairman for the AFMS Endowment Fund. Cheryl Neary, a member of the Eastern Federation, is the AFMS Endowment Fund Chair and the AFMS Central Office Administrator.

Basically, this is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the NFMS/AFMS Convention in Billings, Montana in August. People

from around the American Federation donate prizes for the raffle, which may be jewelry, crystals, minerals, fossils, books, or other items, each valued from \$75 to \$200. The drawing is handled so there is at least one winner from each of the seven regional federations; last year we had five winners from the Rocky Mountain Federation. We usually have about three or four winners from the RMFMS.

As items are donated, pictures of them will appear in the AFMS Newsletter and on the American Federation Website, amfed.org. There are usually around 30 items.

This is a major way to financially support the American Federation's efforts on behalf of our hobby. Currently the funds go towards the Junior Rockhound Program, Judges Training, and preparing Programs for distribution to Regional Federations (programs that can be used by individual clubs). Over \$5,000 was raised last year.

Purchasing the tickets: Cheryl requests that your checks for tickets be sent to the regional chairs (*for RMFMS, send to Richard Jaeger, 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137*) so we can issue tickets and have a record of who has entered. **Checks should be made payable to the "AFMS Endowment Fund."**

We then forward those checks to Pat LaRue, the AFMS Treasurer. I will fill out the proper number of tickets for each contribution, send the stubs to the donating individual, and get the tickets to the NFMS/AFMS Show in Billings in August to be put into the RMFMS bag. There will be at least one general prize ticket, maybe two or three, drawn from each of the bags for the seven regional federations. After that, all tickets will be dumped into one bag, and further drawings will take place until all the prizes have been awarded.

I hope that many of you will participate and hopefully be winners in Billings. **You need not be present to win.** I would also be happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle or they can be sent directly to Cheryl Neary; the more prizes, the more winners, and hopefully, more money raised. *Cheryl's address is: 42 Jefferson Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772.* My wife and I are each donating a piece of jewelry for Endowment Fund prizes. My contact information is provided below. Please share this information with your club members and thanks for your consideration.

Please purchase some tickets – and hopefully get your ticket drawn in Billings in August.

Richard D. Jaeger
3515 E. 88th St.
Tulsa, OK 74137-2602
918-481-0249
RjgrSci@aol.com

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.

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

Apr 1, 2 – NWA Gem & Mineral Society Show; Siloam Springs Community Building, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

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

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

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

May 5 – 7 – McPherson Gem and Mineral Club show & Swap, 4-H Grounds, McPherson, KS

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 rmfms.org

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

Sep 30 - Oct 1 – Omaha Gem and Mineral Show; UNO Scott Conference Center, Omaha, NE

Oct 20 - 22 – National Fossil Exposition (Mid America Paleontology Society (MAPS)); Springfield, IL

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