



ROCK SOLID

MAY 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:

OGMS MEETINGS and SCHEDULE

As our Olathe Gem and Mineral Society (OGMS) operating year (May - May) ends; members, guests and visitors are reminded that we do not hold regular meetings in June, July and August so as to allow families to vacation, collect more rocks, etc. That is not to say that we become inactive. There will still be the annual OGMS picnic (Sat., June 3 at Kill Creek Park), various field trips, Association meetings (readying for the Nov. gem and mineral show), the Rocky Mountain Federation Congress (with the Casper, WY show July 12-16), the Association picnic (probably in Aug.), etc. Watch our Bulletin and periodic emails regarding upcoming events and activities. Normal meetings will resume Thursday, Sept. 7 (and occur on the first Thursday of subsequent months). Some upcoming programs anticipated include presentations on metal detecting, fluorescent minerals and equipment, gold panning, Tom Tivol (topic TBD), basic crystallography, geode fest show-n-tell, etc.

EKGMOWECHASHALA is Coming - - Our OGMS May 4th Program

As suggested last month, we have now confirmed our May 4, 2023 meeting program. Presenting will be Kathleen Rust, PhD Candidate with the U. of Kansas Ecology and Evolution Biology/KU Biodiversity Institute, who will discuss Ekgmowechashala (an extinct genus of primate, the only known North American primate of its time - - that being during the Oligocene and early Miocene (33 - 5 million years ago). Fossil evidence of this primate has been found in South Dakota (on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation), Oregon, Nebraska and Texas. (BTW, the name is Sioux, meaning "little cat man"). (Wikipedia).

Flashback - - Nov. 2021 OGMS Program

Some may recall at our Nov. 2021 meeting program by Franek (Franciszek) Hasiuk, Kansas Geological Survey Associate Scientist, who presented his work (under U.S. Geological Survey Grant No. G21AP10466-00) in searching for and identifying "critical minerals" in Kansas and adjacent states. Recently, he is co-author (with Stephen Oborny, Nikki Potter and Doug Louis) of the latest KGS Public Information Circular 39 (March 2023) entitled "Bedrock Drill Core and Cuttings". These physical samples are important to scientists and industry in that they help locate such important resources as oil and natural gas, salt, coal and critical elements.

The "drill cores" are long, continuous, cylindrical samples of solid rock, some as long as thousands of feet. All are labeled, and some are laterally slabbed in half and face polished resulting in a "butt side" and a "slab side" (the slab side being preserved and archived as record, and the butt side available for study and research).

The "cuttings" are rock fragments that are brought to the surface via drilling fluids, dried, labeled and bagged for record and research.

These samples (69,000 drill cores, and cuttings from 147,000 wells in Kansas) respectively are stored at the KGS Drill Core Library in Lawrence, and at the Kansas Geological Sample (cuttings) Repository in Wichita.

Additionally, through funding from the NSF EPS-CoR, Mr. Hasiuk has obtained a Core Scanner - the only one of its kind at a public university. This device provides opportunities under the \$60b bipartisan law for research in energy transition bipartisan law (carbon capture, energy storage, critical minerals, and expansion of hydrogen economy.)

Flashback - - Oct. 2022 OGMS Program

A March siting of Dr. Rolf Mandel, immediate past KGS Survey Director, (and our clubs' Oct. 5, 2022 program presenter - the topic was "Searching for Evidence of the First Peoples in the Americas") finds him at ease and very much expressing "Life is Good" while now able to expend all of his time in his role as Distinguished Professor of Archeology in the Dept. of Anthropology, and Senior Scientist and Executive Director of the Odyssey Geoarchaeological Research Program at the Kansas Geological Survey.

Several will recall, and have asked about, Dr. Mandel indicating that a Discovery Channel feature on his Yukon dig will be televised soon. The report is that the network is still intending to schedule and broadcast this, and that Dr. Mandel will notify us as soon as he learns of the exact date (originally scheduled for Nov. 2022).

Dues are Due

A friendly reminder that per club Bylaws, membership dues are due at our May 4 club meeting. This year members who are on time with their dues are eligible for one of three prize drawings (the drawing is to occur at the June 3 picnic). New members who have joined since Jan. 1, 2023 are exempt from having to pay dues until May 2024.

T-Shirt Update

As a re-start (following the pandemic pause) complimentary lime green club t-shirts (with club logos) will be distributed to new members. Club T-shirts and special ordered zipper hoodies will be available for pick-up at our May 4th meeting. Your first green T-shirt is provided by OGMS. Extras are available in the following colors: Red, Dark Blue, and Gray.

For club members who have already received these t-shirts and wish to purchase new ones and/or zippered hoodies may do so by ordering them through our club treasurer, Barbara Crompton. The price for t-shirts is:

S – XL	\$16.44
2XL – 3XL	\$19.73
4XL	\$21.92

The hoodies are a Medium Gray. If you have already ordered please pay as follows:

S – XL	\$37.27
L tall	\$47.27
2XL	\$40.55
XL tall	\$47.27

These prices reflect KS sales tax.

For those who have already ordered shirts, you may pay Barbara Crompton. Checks should be made out to OGMS.

New Members (As of April 1, 2023)

Donna Baker	OP, KS. Interested in crystals, minerals, fossils & other.
Deb Ballin	St. Joseph, MO. Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making, crystals, minerals, fossils & rocks. (Also is a Pony Express Prospectors member).
Jason Benton	Lacygne, KS. Interested in minerals, fossils and crystals.
Morghan Benton	Lacygne, KS. (Youth). Interested in fossils, crystals and geodes.
Lyn Oshel	St. Joseph, MO. Interested in geode hunting and rock collecting. (Also is a Pony Express Prospectors member).
Jonathan Ramos	Olathe, KS. Interested in gem cutting, crystals, minerals, and fossils.
Sam Timko	OP, KS. Interested in 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:

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

Celestine vs Celestite; IMA?; Giant Geodes; etc.

The Mineralogical Record (March-April 2023) features an article entitled “The Crystal Cave, South Bass Island, Ottawa County, Ohio” in which is described the mineral Celestine (formerly Celestite) occurrence in the largest “walk-in-geode” in the world. The mines on this island (along with nearby Green Island), two of the 2,176 islands in Lake Erie, are known to produce some of the largest Celestine crystals.

Celestine, (Strontium sulfate), has been of interest and mined here since the later part of the 19th century as strontium was used for pyrotechnical purposes (and continues to be used for fireworks).

A "long story - shortened" concerning Bass Island Celestine is that in 1871 another commercial application for the mineral was being pursued - that being a method for extracting sugar from beet molasses, which involved adding strontium compounds to the process (which formed bistrontium saccharate when heated, and strontium hydrate crystals when cooled). This material and resultant product (and technology) was shipped to Germany. Fast forward to WWII when it was discovered that recycled by-product from the sugar production was the pesticide Zyklon B - which later would be used by the Nazi Schutzstaffel at Auschwitz concentration camp.

So, the Bass Island mine is currently listed as the largest "walk-in geode" in the world (and signage declaring "the largest Celestite (sic) crystals"), and while measurements are in question, it is stated as being 9 to 10.5 meters wide at its widest point with the height varying between 2.5-3 meters and holds 30 people at a time. With that there is a contestant - that being the selenite containing crystal/silver mine "Pulpi Geode" in Spain, which declares to be 380 cu. ft. (measuring 8 by 1.8 meters).

In either instance what is a "geode" vs a "cave" vs. a "vug"? (This a question long misunderstood or agreed to). The Dictionary of Geological Terms defines a "vug" as being "a small cavity...", so for this discussion this is eliminated. A "cave" is partially defined as "a natural cavity..." with no mention of the composition of the surrounding rocks, etc. A "geode" is defined as "a hollow, more or less globular body.... a significant feature includes a thin outer layer of dense chalcedony, etc..... is separable from the rock in which it occurs and its crystals are not of the same minerals as those of the enclosing rock". From this it may be argued that neither the Bass Island nor the Spanish features are geodes, but in fact are cave type structures lined with crystals.

Back to the "Celestine vs Celestite" name for the typical sky-blue (but occasionally milky white or yellowish) minerals. The International Mineralogical Association (IMA) through its Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) has "discredited" the Celestite name and "Approved" the "Celestine" name. The IMA, founded in 1958, "is the world's largest organization promoting mineralogy, and consists of 38 national organizations (represented in the U.S. by the Mineralogical Association of America). Cited as not belonging to the IMA is Denmark, Egypt and Portugal.

N. Onnen



World’s Largest Ruby for Auction

In July 2022, Fura (a mining firm based in Dubai) discovered a 101-carat rough ruby in their Mozambique (SW Africa) gem mining operation. Named “The Estrala de Fura” (The Star of Fura) it has since been faceted into a magnificent 55.22-carat gemstone, touted as being the largest in the world, and will be sold in New York City at Sotheby's auction on June 8, 2023. Expected to bring considerably more than \$30m dollars, it will surpass the previous record for a ruby (the Sunrise Ruby) of \$30.3m in 2015. Currently on display in Hong Kong, the Estrala de Fura, will be shown in Taipei, Singapore, Geneva and Dubai before being auctioned in New York City. (Reuters and Forbes). Long considered the prime ruby capital of the world, Burma is at risk of being surpassed in this regard by new mines and discoveries on the African continent.

N. Onnen

“Jelinite” re-visited from the April 2023 'Rock Solid Bulletin'

The April 2023 Rock Solid Bulletin discussed the 1937-1938 discovery and naming of Jelenite, a Kansas amber, by George Jeliinik. Now comes recognition that this apparently was not the first collection of amber in Kansas. In 1897, Samuel W. Williston who was a first member of the Kansas Geological Survey, mentions collecting fossilized wood in 1895 along the Smokey Hill River near Elkader, KS (south of Oakley, KS) in which “fragments of amber occur in association with the bark of these trees.” (Cretaceous, Smoky Hill Chalk Member of the Niobrara Formation). While Williston was careful to record the discovery, dates and locations of vertebrate and invertebrate fossils, there is no record of him placing specimens of these amber fragments in the University of Kansas museum. (“Oceans of Kansas”, Second Edition, 2017, Michael J. Everhart)

N. Onnen

March 2023 Association Scholarships

At the recent gem and mineral show, the following scholarships were awarded to individuals. Application subjects/topics of study are shown in italics.

Fidelis C. Onwugba	K-State student	\$1000 Tom Lorenz Memorial Award (this the second annual award in that fund).	<i>(Uranium concentration in ground water and potential as natural containment)</i>
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Chenchen Shen	KU student	\$750 award	<i>(Early ray-fined fish faunal dynamics)</i>
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Marc Center	KU Student	\$750 award	<i>(Brittle deformation in the Colorado Front Range)</i>
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Dakota Maverick	MU student	\$500 award	<i>(Reexamination of Mazon Creek medusae using microcomputed tomography)</i>
Angikar Roy	KU student	\$500 award	<i>(Relating fault coupling chances to fluid pressures)</i>
Chris Beard	KU student	\$500 award	KU Senior Curator at the KU Biodiversity Institute, Distinguished Foundation Fellow and 2000 MacArthur Fellowship. <i>(Preliminary survey to Big Bend National Park, Texas)</i>
Parker Rhinehart	KU student	\$500 award	<i>(New species of acmeoden unique insectivorous Paleocene mammal)</i>
Dyan N. Sahadarini	MU student	\$500 award	<i>(Study of iron oxide apatite deposits from Pea Ridge Mine, Missouri)</i>
Kristen Miller	KU student	\$500 award	<i>(Fossils of Big Bend National Park, Texas)</i>
Tochukwu E. Onyebum	K-State student	\$500 award	<i>(Study of lithospheric mantle for North American continent)</i>
Kathleen Rust	KU student	\$500 award	<i>(investigating dentition from the extinct tetonius)</i>
Megan Nibbelink	KU student	\$500 award	<i>(isoetales order of vascular plants in Devonian period)</i>

These awards are given by the Association annually to applicants involved in studies related to the geoscience fields. The source of funding is derived from the activities of the Association via silent and live auctions, contributions and sales at the Association booth.

(Note: K-State student Quinton Mindrup, who was our presenter at our April 6, 2023 club meeting was last years' first Tom Lorenz Memorial awardee. Tom Lorenz was an early and longtime member of the OGMS and the Association).

AFMS Junior Poetry contest 2022.

Rocks, fossils, gems, and minerals. I love them all.

Each time I go collecting I always bring home quite a haul.

They're all so neat and interesting even the ones that are very small.

If I had to pick a favorite I couldn't. Because I would pick them all.

(Lucia H., age 11, from Ventura (CA) Gem & Mineral Society; Rockhound Rambling).

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.

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>

May 20, 21 – The Rock Hobby Club of Greater Saint Louis Show

<https://rocksrulestl.com/shows>

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>

Aug (TBD) - Association picnic

Sep 7 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM

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.