



ROCK SOLID

JUNE 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:

QUICK, 11TH Hour Reminder - - OGMS Picnic - - Saturday, June 3, 2023

Calling all OGMS members - - and guests. Our annual summer picnic is set for 3:30 pm in shelter #3, Saturday June 3, 2023 at Kill Creek Park, Olathe, KS. (Near De Soto, KS). If you have already signed up, we look forward to seeing you at the picnic. If you have yet to sign up, please see the email notice sent out by our Webmaster on May 18, 2023 and follow response instructions - - and we'll look forward to seeing you also. Participants are asked to bring a side dish and any silent auction items you wish to donate (proceeds go to the club operating fund). The drawing (3 prizes) will occur at the picnic for those members who have paid their membership fees on time. Also look for free items to be given away at the picnic (I've been clearing the garage so I can collect more rocks and minerals this summer). THINK MILD, WEATHER FOR JUNE 3 - - however for those who have yet to attend one of our picnics please note that we will be in shelter #3 which is covered and immediately adjacent to parking. The site is handicapped accessible, and modern restrooms are at the opposite end of the parking lot. Suggestions - - Hiking trails are nearby and appropriate shoes (and maybe bug spray) are suggested. Also folding lawn chairs are welcome.

OGMS Meeting(s) Reminder

In consideration of family vacations, etc. our club does not formally meet during June, July and August. Our next regularly scheduled club meeting is Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023. We will still have field trips and occasionally other functions during the summer, so watch for email notices.

Looking forward for fall 2023, the meetings will be 9/7/23 and 10/5/23. Our Nov. 2023 may occur at a date yet to be determined (if we follow last year's decision to hold our holiday party during the month of Nov. - - instead of in Dec. Stay tuned for this decision).

Check the upcoming events (below) for functions already on the calendar.

The Rock Solid Bulletin

Following the example of taking the summer off, our Rock Solid Bulletin will also be paused during July and August. Following this June 2023 bulletin, the next one will occur for Sept. 2023 - - but in the meantime please watch for emails and notices from our webmaster when activities are announced periodically. (The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) of which OGMS is a member, also pauses their bulletin (the "A.F.M.S. Newsletter") during the summer.

And Related to the AFMS

At the June 2001 AFMS Convention, it was suggested, approved and agreed, to create a traveler's guide to the rocks, minerals, and fossils along the Lewis and Clark Trail. This long-awaited guide has now been completed and can be downloaded in two versions (a version that is optimized for viewing on your computer, and a version that is optimized for printing on your printer). Adobe's Acrobat Reader (Version 5.0 or later) is required. Interested individuals should access the AFMS website and follow directions there to obtain the document (entitled "Lewis and Clark: Rockhounding on the Way to the Pacific"). It is planned to have the document printed and placed in the OGMS library this summer.

And Along the Trail -

Are any club members planning a trip this summer through Montana? The state has installed approximately 50 roadside geological markers describing the geological and paleontological wonders of the state. For locations go to <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/geomarkers.aspx>

FLASHBACK - - March 2023 Program on Pearls

At our March 2, 2023 OGMS club meeting, Tom Tivol exhibited superb examples and gave an excellent and in-depth program on pearls and related jewelry. Now, in the June 2023 issue of Rock & Gem magazine, freelance writer Audrey Pavia presents “Pearls: Tears of a Mermaid” as an overview of the subject. While she does not explain the “tears of a mermaid” statement origin, a sidebar to the article offers readers the opportunity to access for free (stated normally \$599) the comprehensive “Pearl-As-One” course by the Cultured Pearl Association of America (CPAA). Interested individuals are directed to go to pearlsasone.com and use the coupon code ROCKNGEM. This course is cited as giving information on the history, production and business of pearls. The offer does not designate that one has to be a current subscriber to Rock & Gem. The magazine is the official publication of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), which by membership through the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS), OGMS is a member. It will be interesting to learn from OGMS members their opinion of the course (in a future Bulletin).

FLASHBACK - - May. 2023 Program by Kathleen Rust

It has been learned that our May 2023 presenter, Kathleen Rust, has earned the Cynthia Reiss-Clark Writing Award from the KU Department of English. This award is given to individuals in STEM fields whose writing about science and technology “clearly, effectively, and gracefully makes scientific topics accessible to wider audiences.” The award was given for her article titled: “The Story of Ekgmowechashala - what a 29.5-million-year-old primate can teach us about animal responses to climate change”. The article described research she has been conducting on an enigmatic primate species from the late Oligocene of North America called Ekgmowechashala. Along with her mentor, Dr. Christopher Beard, KU Distinguished Professor and curator of the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, she has also recently submitted a fuller, detailed research paper on this work to a scientific journal.

Ms. Rust and Dr. Beard have both been given financial scholarship/research awards from The Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Inc. at our March 2023 gem and mineral show. These awards, as identified in the May Rock Solid Bulletin are from the Association scholarship fund.

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

SILVISAURUS Designated Official State (KS) and Fossil

The only dinosaur known to have lived in what is now Kansas, *Silvisaurus condrayi*, was designated the official state land fossil of Kansas, thanks in part to a Kansas rancher and a Goddard schoolteacher and his sixth-grade students. Teacher Joel Condray, his students from Challenger Intermediate School in Goddard, as well as David Burnham, University of Kansas fossil preparator, provided testimony for the bill, SB-3. The bill was sponsored by State Sen. Elaine Bowers, R-Concordia, and signed by into law by Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly on April 7.

Condray is the grandson of Warren Condray, a Kansas rancher who found the fossil skeleton on his Ottawa County land in 1955 and donated it to the KU Natural History Museum's vertebrate paleontology collection. In 1960, the fossil was described as a new species of dinosaur by KU paleontology researcher Theodore Eaton and named *Silvisaurus condrayi*, in honor of the Kansas rancher.

The only known skeletal specimen of *Silvisaurus* to date is housed at the KU Natural History Museum, a part of the KU Biodiversity

Institute, which studies past and present biological diversity. The dinosaur's fossil remains include the skull, lower jaw, backbone, ribs, limb bones, armor-like plates and a large shoulder spike, and they have been studied by researchers around the globe. Several



years ago, new technologies emerged that helped KU paleontologists obtain more of the specimen from the rock in which it was embedded, and a new museum display was created for it in 2018. The exhibition can be seen at the museum, along with a large scientific illustration depicting a *Silvisaurus* walking.

Silvisaurus is on display at the museum, as is the state flying fossil, *Pteranodon*, and the state marine fossil, *Tylosaurus*. A full-sized poster of *Silvisaurus* is on display in the KC Union Station Science City Dino Lab.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to Warren Condray for bringing his discovery to our attention, and all Kansans can be proud that this rare find is unique to our state," Burnham said.

N. Onnen

KU Paleontology Ranked Number 1 for Public Universities by US News and World Report!

The KU paleontology graduate program is ranked number one in the most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings for public universities. KU has 37 programs in the top 50 rankings this year.

Congratulations to KU paleontologists, including the KU Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum's Divisions of Vertebrate Paleontology, Invertebrate Paleontology and Paleobotany!

N. Onnen

From the Midwest Federation

The MOHS the Merrier, by Marilyn Russell, from "Strata Data", Feb. 2023

I think the I shall never see

A poem lovely as a tree,

But I'm a fan of geology,

So Killmer's missed the mark for me.

Who can resist the gorgeous gems:

Diamonds and rubies in diadems,

Topaz and amethyst in the stores,

Birthstones with prices my husband adores.

On Lake superior's shore the labradorite's flashing:

Lapis Lazuli's blue tone is smashing.

Get out the black light! It's fluorite's time

To bring out hidden colors sublime.

Quartz's wannabe cousin calcite,

Long lost past of Amber is in sight,

Talc is every baby butt's delight.

Thus, the Moh's Scale is mine to recite.

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. (For a more complete regional and national listing through Dec. 2023, visit [ROCKNGEM.COM](https://rockngem.com))

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

(For those that plan far ahead, the RMF Congress for 2024 is in Oklahoma City, OK (Oct. 25-27, 2024), and in Grand Junction, CO (May 9-11, 2025).

Jul 15, 16 – Tulsa Rock and Mineral Show

<https://tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/shows>

Aug 20 (Probable) - Association picnic Antioch Park, O.P. KS

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 8, 9 – Topeka Gem and Mineral Show; Topeka, KS <https://www.topekagms.org/show.html>

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.