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# ROCK SOLID

## OCTOBER 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 November 16th 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 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: Norm Onnen

Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen (816)645-1333

Gem Show Chairman: Norman Onnen

Raffle: Lesliee Hartman

Association Delegates: Chet McLaughlin & Mandy Lorenz

Alternate Assoc. Delegates: Larry Wells

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

### **OGMS Meetings etc.**

Welcome to fall..... at last, following a most unusual summer.

Our Oct. 5, 2023 meeting will feature a presentation by Roger Middleton, watchmaker at Tivols on the Plaza. He will discuss the history of watches and should be most interesting, especially considering that the "watch was developed by inventors and engineers from the 16th-century Europe.... .... in association with a timepiece from at least as early as 1542." (This statement from Wikipedia). And think of jeweled movements, and quartz crystals. Lots to learn and understand.

And, please recall that we WILL NOT have a normally scheduled first Thursday of the month club meeting in November. Instead, we will be preparing for our participation in the Nov. 3-5, 2023 Gem and Mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center.

Also, note that we will hold our annual Holiday Party on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023 in the space just outside of Room 018 at the Hope Chapel (our regular meeting location). Details of the party will be discussed at the Oct. 5 meeting.

There is no scheduled club activity in the month of December at this time. We'll look forward to seeing everyone again on Thursday evening, Jan. 4, 2024.

### **Looking forward, our calendar for Sept. 2023 through June 2024**

Oct. 5, 2023	OGMS general meeting
Nov. 2, 2023	NOTE - THIS GENERAL MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO PREPARING FOR THE NOV. 3-5, 2023 GEM AND MINERAL SHOW.
Nov. 3-5, 2023	Gem and Mineral Show at KCI Expo Center
Nov. 16, 2023	OGMS Holiday Party - - in the rotunda outside of room 018 (Details will be forthcoming).
Dec. 2023	NO GENERAL MEETING IN DEC. INSTEAD SEE NOV. 16, 2023 NOTE ABOVE
Jan. 4, 2024	OGMS general meeting
Feb. 1, 2024	OGMS general meeting
Mar. 7, 2024	OGMS general meeting
Mar. 8-10, 2024	Gem and Mineral Show at KCI Expo Center
April 4, 2024	OGMS general meeting
May 2, 2024	OGMS general meeting
June 2024	OGMS Annual picnic (TBD)

We will continue to hold the raffle at the beginning of our meetings. Members are urged to donate items to the raffle table as the raffle supports the snacks provided at our meetings.

### **Association News & Nov. 3-5, 2023 Gem and Mineral Show**

The August 2023 Association annual picnic was postponed due to excessive heat. It has since been

announced that the 2023 picnic will not be rescheduled, and that the event will be resumed in 2024 with a mid-summer date to be announced later.

The November 3-5, 2023 Gem and Mineral Show is just around the corner. This particular show is led by Shows of Integrity with the Association being a coordinating participant. Interested OGMS members will be provided the opportunity to reserve sales tables for themselves with the understanding that 10% of their sales will be given to their respective clubs. OGMS members interested in reserving tables should contact Leslie Hartman (cell number - 785 380 6016 or [hartman.12345@hotmail.com](mailto:hartman.12345@hotmail.com) ). Note that the number of tables available must be shared with other Association clubs and as such are limited in number.

### **Club Holiday Party**

Our OGMS has had a near year-end holiday party for many years. Until last year, these have occurred at members' homes (when we were smaller), and later times at a venue. Last year we held the party at the church where we meet and the occasion received such positive responses that we have this year scheduled our party in a similar fashion for Thursday evening, Nov. 16, 2023, again at the church. (Note that this takes the place of a Dec. meeting/party for the club). Details will be sent out later, however as in the past we will have a partially cost-shared catered meal, and will participate in a small gift exchange.

### **Rocky Mountain Federation (RMF) Congress**

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies newsletter (missing since May of 2022) is apparently back. Cleverly entitled "Rocky Mountain Federation News" this Vol. 54, Issue 1 document (consisting of 28 pages) has just been released and supposedly will be followed on a monthly basis. Presently, while yet to be read/reviewed here, it is available at [www.rmfmts.org/newsletter](http://www.rmfmts.org/newsletter) for your perusal. Interestingly, this document is by Linda Jaeger as "RMFMS Editor" and is a welcome and long-awaited renewal. Linda is also the AFMS Newsletter editor and co-chair of the AFMS Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee. With those credentials and obvious interest, it hoped the renewal of the RMF newsletter has been successfully launched and will continue on schedule. Linda, and her husband Richard, have been long standing officers in their club, the RMFMS and the AFMS.

### **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) News Items**

First, the Rock & Gem (R&G) magazine is the officially designated hobby magazine of the AFMS and, by extension, the seven regional federations, and by further extension, the OGMS. There has been established a subscription commission partnership where every Rock & Gem magazine subscription purchased by an AFMS affiliated member and/or club, R&G will pay a 15% commission to AFMS. This will apply to new & renewing subscriptions.

In short, a "R&G/AFMS subscription" flyer/order form has been produced and is to be available on the AFMS and regional federations websites (the OGMS belongs to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical



Societies) which can be printed and sent to R&G (using code P73RNG01.) Two optional methods are to order online at [www.rockngem.com/afms](http://www.rockngem.com/afms), or use the QR code supplied here.

Next, the AFMS has introduced “Crack the News”, an AFMS newsletter “written by kids for kids who love rocks, minerals and fossils.” The first issue (which can be downloaded from the AFMS junior’s website at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>) contains information on - -

Clinozoisite, emeralds, and jasper

Trilobites and dinosaurs

The Dice Mineralogical Museum

Making a borax snowflake

Earning the Collecting Badge

Additional issues, reportedly will be published as/when more items are received from kids - - hopefully on a regular basis.

(OGMS Members. Remember we will still be getting the Diamond Dan issues).

### **The Mineralogical Record**

For those who subscribe to The Mineralogical Record, there may be some interest in the fact that it has been printed and distributed by the Allen Press in Lawrence, Kansas for many years. In January of this year Allen Press was purchased by CJK — a Minnesota printing firm indicating they needed the Allen Press scientific and educational client base, distribution, and location to expand their business, and that the Lawrence facility would maintain its present status. Now comes word that they have suddenly decided to close the Lawrence operations effective as soon as Oct. 28 and move that activity to their other sites, claiming that they could no longer make the present location cost effective. This surprise immediately affects over 100 Lawrence workers, many who have been employed there in excess of 30 years. A significant loss for Lawrence, and the prestige of having The Mineralogical Record as a significant and trusted client.

### **Cumbres & Toltec Railroad (think Colorado and New Mexico)**

The Sept. 2023 issue of Rock & Gem magazine featured an article entitled “All Aboard; Colorado’s Tourist Trains for the Geologist”, a part of which described the Cumbres & Toltec Geology Train - - which is not exactly a geology train, but is a twice a year (in June and September) special train tour set up specifically for rock hounds, geologist, etc. who wish to travel the scenic route in the company of designated guest geologists who roam the enroute train to answer questions, point out formations, etc. The train actually stops at various places to allow the riders to disembark along the way to collect specimens and investigate the geological features. Included is a walk through the Toltec tunnel.

## **FIELD TRIPS:**

### **October Field Trip**

Date: October 21, 2023

Meeting place: Odell Gas Station 201 Perry St Odell, NE 68415

Time: 10am-4pm with lunch break at Diamond Lake second location

First location: Hwy 8 NE on the side of the road.

Materials: Fossils, quartz, quartz with amethyst. Quartz with Amethyst is harder to find.

Can metal detect just this part of the hillside.

Garden shovels, regular shovels, gloves, or anything you use to dig. No power tools needed. The holes MUST be filled back in.

LUNCH: At Diamond Lake

Can bring chairs to sit and eat.

Second location: Diamond Lake

Materials: Will find Barite diamond shapes but sometimes can form rose shape.

Can not metal detect at this location.

This spot requires walking for 1 mile to the location and 1 mile back to your vehicle.

All the diamonds are just laying around. You can use a garden shovel to dig and sift through the red dirt to find more diamonds. No power tools needed.

NOTE: If you cannot walk 2 miles to the second location you can stay at the first location without the group until you are done. Also, when you are at the second location you can leave at any time.

I have worn tennis shoes at both locations but for stability I would recommend boots.

On the second, I got ticks when visiting in June so bug spray would be good. I have not come across any snakes in the years I have been there but still keep an eye out.

Let me know if you are coming by October 16, 2023

**Any other questions or comments please contact me at [hartman.12345@hotmail.com](mailto:hartman.12345@hotmail.com)**

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. Lesliee.

## **NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS**

### **Information Mining - and George Kunz**

In reading about the history and importance of jadeite coming from Burma, one comes upon a

statement attributed to George Kunz, of the highly esteemed Tiffany & Co., in which he advised his well-to-do clients: "When handled [the jade], some of the secret virtue of the substance is absorbed into the body". (*The Stone of Heaven*; by Adirian Levy and Cathy Scott-Clark). So, the Tiffany name is more than familiar, but who was George Kunz? Some would offer that "kunzite" was named for George Kunz, which is true since he is credited with the discovery of the mineral, a type of pink spodumene, an important lithium bearing silicate. However, Mr. Kunz led a rather unusual life. He became interested in minerals while very young and had a collection of over 4,000 items in his teens which he sold to the U. of Minnesota for \$400. While he briefly attended Cooper Union (school), he did not finish, and never attended college. With that he taught himself mineralogy via books and field research, and became a Vice President of Tiffany & Co. at only 23 years old - - a position he maintained for his entire career. He was considered a "gentleman scientist", wrote over 300 books and articles (some still in print), and belonged to the Mineralogical Society of America, the Association for the Advancement of Sciences (was once the VP), the NY Mineralogical Club, The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society (as President for a time), the American Chemical Society, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (a VP once), as well as numerous other cultural and scientific organizations.

Some have him cutting the very large Tiffany Yellow Diamond (while other accounts indicate he "supervised" this cutting). While never attending college, he was given numerous awards and honorary degrees including a B. of Science from Cooper Union, (1872), an "AM" [?] from Columbia University (1898), a Ph.D. from the U. of Marburg (1903), and a Sc.D. from Knox College (1907), among others. Curiously the Ph.D. from Marburg was withdrawn and according to his account was due to his efforts to reforest France, and his supposed sympathies to the French and English allies against Germany. In 1923, after the death of his first wife, he married Opal Gilberson, a noted aviator, however the marriage was annulled in 1929 - - however she continued to maintain his household until his death in 1932. After his death, his personal collection of several thousand rare books and articles on gems and minerals were sold to the U. S. Geological Survey for one dollar. A unique circumstance regarding this collection of documents is that in 2012 the discovery of a rare photographic album in his collection dated 1922 contained 81 photographs of the Russian Crown Jewels and pre-dates the official catalog by the Soviet government by 3 years. From this it was recognized by researchers that four pieces of jewelry were missing - - and are assumed to be missing to this day. (References; Wikipedia; Stephen Voynick; the NY Times; Mineral Collector; USGS and NPR).



(Photo credit: Wikipedia). This stone, now reportedly worth \$30 million in 2023, has been worn by four women - Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, Audrey Hepburn (in the movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's*), Lady Gaga and Beyoncé. N. Onnen

### **Creede, Colorado, etc.**

Fully intending to relax and enjoy watching the aspens turn golden colors near Creede, Colorado we arranged for a VRBO at South Fork, Colorado (could not get a rental at Creede) starting on Sept. 19. This date was chosen based upon past experience where the leaves in SW Colorado normally turn around

mid-Sept. This date in the past was also traditionally linked to the final show dates of the Creede Repertory Theatre. Three things went awry here. First the VRBO rental had been photo-shopped (the pictures indicated it to be adjacent to water, but instead was on a bare open piece of ground), we were about a week too early for the leaves to be turning this season, and the theatre had closed a week earlier this year so that they could take the shows on the road. But all was not lost. The weather cooperated, (40 degrees in the mornings and 60's during the days), the trails and roads were dry, and while many facilities were already shut down for the season, we found enough restaurants, etc. to satisfy our needs - - and didn't have to work around crowds of tourists.

One intention/mission was to find a specimen of Creedite for my collection. Creedite, in 1916 had been discovered (and named for this location) in a now closed fluorspar mine (adjacent to Wagon Wheel Gap on the Rio Grande River — which is now the 4uR Ranch). As this is the type location, one would expect there to be at least an example of the mineral to be viewed, but not so. The Creede Mineral Museum did not have one, the few local shops had not heard of this, the closed mine on the 4uR Ranch is inaccessible private property, and Jake Morris of the famous Last Chance Mine says that no specimens exist. Not to give up, an online search was begun. The Denver Museum of Natural History only has a specimen but from the Henderson Mine NW of Idaho Springs, CO, the Smithsonian only has a specimen (NMNH 171131) but from Kazakhstan, the American Museum of Natural History does not have one, and finally two actual original Creedite specimens were found at the Yale Peabody Museum (YPM Min 015292 and YPM Min 033989). How specimens of Creedite ended up at Yale (instead of at the Smithsonian) probably was the result of efforts by famed mineralogist Edward Dana (the son of James Dana).

As for the Last Chance Mine, it still exists (it has been a feature article in Rock & Gem magazine and visited by several OGMS members) and continues to be owned, operated and improved rustically by the infamous and crusty Jake Morris. A few years ago, he was MIA to Del Norte while his wife was receiving medical attention. They are now back, however she had recently fell and broke her shoulder so was not available to visitors. The visit to the mine and two on site museums (one general mining museum and the other specific to Jake's private collection and hand-made jewelry) is free, but there is a fee (was \$15 on this visit) for a guided tour of the mine. Apparently the two very rustic "cabins" on site are still available for no fee.

As for the Creede Repertory Theatre, it continues to operate seasonally (about mid-June to mid-Sept.) and receives rave reviews. The theatre, originally a 1930's movie house, with the closure of the silver mines in 1966, solicited help in operating and saving the venue. This request was answered by 19-year-old University of Kansas theatre major Steve Grossman, who with 12 other student actors drove to Creede and established a theater company which continues to perform - - a significant feature for the very small and remote town in the mountains.

Near Creede (only visually near on the map), as many who have attempted (some successfully) to visit the feature, is Wheeler Geological Area (think of a smaller version of Bryce Canyon in Utah). It is the 25-million-year-old remnants of one of the world's largest known volcanic eruptions. This "area" was





1 - Photo credit John Fowler

originally designated as Wheeler National Monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, however it was so very hard to access and administrate (plus some politics were in play) it was downgraded by President Truman in 1950. At an elevation of 11,960 feet, it can be reached by a near 8-mile hike, or by a difficult 14-mile four-wheel drive. It is worth the effort; however, you may be the only ones there on any particular day. A 30-mile loop we completed took us 5-hours. 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. (For a more complete regional and national listing through Dec. 2023, visit [ROCKNGEM.COM](https://www.rockngem.com))

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

**Oct 5** – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM

**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

**Nov. 3 - 5** – Gem and Mineral Show at KCI Expo Center

**Nov. 16** – OGMS Holiday Party - - in the rotunda outside of room 018 (Details will be forthcoming).

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

**Mar 8 – 10, 2024** – The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual KC Gem Show at KCI Expo Center