



ROCK SOLID

JANUARY 2024 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

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 2023 – 2024:

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: Norm Onnen

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

Gem Show Chairman: Norman Onnen

Raffle: Leslie Hartman

Association Delegates: Chet McLaughlin & Mandy Lorenz

Alternate Assoc. Delegates: Larry Wells

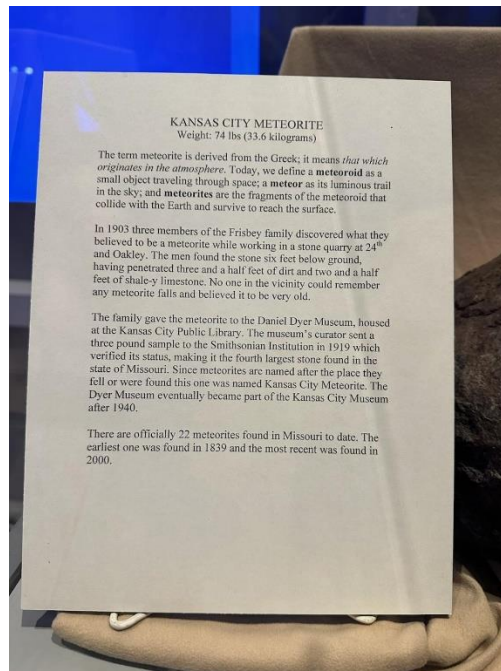
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Welcome to 2024. For those who wish to populate their new calendars, the following reflects the first half of our 2024 anticipated schedule. Remember that all monthly club meetings are Thursday evenings in room 018 at the Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS, beginning at 6:45 pm and ending at 8:45 pm.

Jan. 4, 2024	Club meeting. Program - METEORITES. OGMS member Vince Martini in person (with Steve Arnold, "Meteorite Man", via Zoom link).
Feb. 1, 2024	Club meeting. Program - A Brief History of the American Watchmaking Industry", Roger Middleton, Master Jewelry at Tivols.
Mar. 7, 2024	NO MONTHLY CLUB MEETING
Mar. 7, 2024	Set up for the March 8-11, 2024 Gem and Mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center
Mar. 8-11, 2024	62nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show; KCI Expo Center
Apr. 4, 2024	Club meeting. Program - Gold Panning
May 2, 2024	Club meeting. Program TBD
June 2024	Annual club picnic. Exact date TBD.

Remember to periodically check the "Rock Solid" Bulletin (our OGMS bulletin), and on our website for any updates, including field trips and special events, being considered. Additional timely emails will be sent out as details are established.

Regarding the next club meeting (Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024) OGMS members may recall a previous presentation by Vince Martini that included a ZOOM link with Steve Arnold in the early COVID period when Mr. Arnold was then suffering from COVID. We anticipate this link and presentation will be more successful and complete. In preparation, attendees may think Admire and Haviland Strewn fields (both in Kansas), and the Kansas City meteorite (currently on display at the Union Station Science City Planetarium entry.



NOV. 2023 HOLIDAY PARTY

OGMS held our annual holiday party at Hope Chapel the evening of Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023. Attended by more than 40 members and their family guests, good food (Joe's Kansas City BBQ), a gift exchange, rock hound stories (some more believable than others) were shared to the positive impression of all. Thank you to all the attendees, and to the staff of Hope Chapel, for being



able to easily adjust to schedule changes and impact due to many simultaneous activities at the church and in downtown KC. Overall, comments were very favorable regarding the event, the food, and the venue (understanding that previously we held this event in a meeting room at an area Hy-Vee - - which we outgrew).

STATUS OF THE OGMS

For new members (and others interested in the details), the OGMS, Inc. is a non-profit 501.c.3 educational/charitable organization, established “to provide education in the Earth Sciences and related fields, and to engage in charitable, educational, scientific and literary activities of any and all kinds”. (This a statement of purpose in submitting for non-profit status consideration for the OGMS). OGMS (the “club”) is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and as such is one of 83 clubs in the RMFMS made up of over 12,840 individuals. Five of these clubs are in Kansas. (The RMFMS is likewise one of the seven regional mineralogical societies of the national parent American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.)

In the Kansas City area, OGMS is one of seven organizations (three of which are G&M focused) which make up the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Inc. This “Association” is the entity that organizes and produces the annual March Gem and Mineral Shows, and the OGMS is the only G&M representative of the RMFMS (the others, being on the MO side of state line are a part of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies).

WELCOME JAMES (JAY) KALBAS, Ph.D., and the KS Geological Survey

On July 25, Dr. Kalbas started his new role as Director of the Kansas Geological Survey (along with concurrent duties as State Geologist and Professor in the Department of Geology at the University of Kansas). Jay, as he prefers, comes from an extensive career at ExxonMobil. (His lengthy bio may be viewed on line). This is a permanent position, assuming the position that Rolfe Mandel held for a period of 5-years, and which was previously held on a lengthy interim basis by Rex Buchanan.

OGMS has been the fortunate recipient of several programs of interest from the Kansas Geological Survey, including the following:

- Dr. Rolfe Mandel, Executive Director of the Odyssey Research Program (Program topic was “Searching for Evidence of the First People of the Americas - Geo-archeological Perspective”.)
- Franciszek (Franek) Hasiuk, Ph.D. (Nov. 18, 2021 program topic was XXXXXXXXX)
- Kathleen L. Rust, Ph.D. candidate (April 2023 program was Ekgmowechashala, “Little Cat Man”).

Now, more of "The Rest of the Story", etc.

Following the piece in the Nov. Bulletin about Charles W. Chesterman, a search of his publications finds “Jadeite of San Benito County, California, Special Report 10-C”, dated Sept. 1951. We are eager for someone to follow up on this reference to determine if the site actually is a source of jadeite (very rare in CA) or nephrite.

Also, more on Amber (following reference in the Nov. "Rock Solid"). The amber “industry” is far from being a distant past occurrence, as is now recognized in the completed reading of “Amber, From Antiquity to Eternity”. Prussia (the German state located on the North, and including the southern and eastern regions of the European Plain. Ref. Wikipedia) had been historically the site for the most aggressive “mining” of the valued and highly prized substance. In fact, many area residents were required to annually “mine” the flood plains of the area, with any amber found being the decreed property of the authorities. Failure to “mine” or provide a certain amount of amber resulted in severe consequences.

New Members (Since October 21, 2023)

Douglas Brown	KCMO	Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making, minerals and geology
Kelly Conner	Lee’s Summit, MO	Interested in “all”
Susan Fuller	Ottawa, KS	Interested in “all”
Nicole Garretson	Lenexa, KS	Interested in “all”
Kathy Hopewell	OP, KS	Interested in “all”. (From 5/4/23 membership)
Mercy Hopewell	OP, KS	Youth (11years old) (From 5/4/23 membership)
Jillene (Jill) Moler	DeSoto, KS	Interested in jewelry making and wire weaving
Todd Moler	DeSoto, KS	Interested in gem cutting, crystals, minerals
Louise Partain	Lawrence, KS	Interested in “all”
Laura Pingel	OP, KS	Interested in “all”
Christina Randall	Lane, KS	Interested in jewelry making and ID of materials
Ben Sikes	Lawrence, KS	Interested in crystals, minerals, fossils
Iiam Sikes	Lawrence, KS	Youth member. Interested in crystals, minerals, fossils
John Todd Staples	Shawnee, KS	Interested in gem cutting and polishing

FIELD TRIPS:

No field trips are scheduled at this time, but depending on the weather, a determination may be made to schedule one. If so, an email will be sent out to all members.

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

Stromatolites in the Argentina Atacama Desert

Ancient stromatolites were much larger than those found today, but a discovery in Argentina is challenging this idea. Click on the following link to read the article.

<https://explorersweb.com/atacama-lagoons-stromatolites/>



1Ancient Stromatolites Canada Photo Jerry Kobalenko

Fashion designer Diana Caldarescu jewelry

Not sure the Midwest is ready for this; however, fashion designer Diane Caldarescu is having a difficult time supplying the demand for her new 14k gold-filled findings and Swarovski light-up earrings. The gold light-up earrings are made with 14k gold-filled findings and Swarovski elements, as well as a tiny button-cell 9V battery designed to be hidden in plain sight behind your earlobes. Each replaceable battery is rated to give about 50 hours of light, and they have an on/off switch for easy use. (These earrings are actually miniature chandeliers).

N. Onnen

When a Carat is not a Carat

The term "carat" originated in ancient times when gemstones were weighed against the carob bean. Each bean weighed about one carat. Gem traders were aware, though, that the bean weights varied slightly. This made it advantageous for them to own both "buying" beans and "selling" beans. (Ruby, Sapphire & Emerald Buying Guide; Renee Newman CG, 2002). Related to carat weights, a recent book review (The Gem Hunter, by Gary Bowersox; GeoVision, Inc., 2004) has led to learning more about emeralds, and especially about lapis-lazuli, from Afghanistan. Not to be confused, lapis-lazuli and lazurite are sometimes used to describe the same specimen (lazurite is the blue component of the specimen) - - the difference being the amount of pyrite in a specimen. That given, the material from Afghanistan is considered the cream of the crop in that it is almost entirely blue without any pyrite or other impurities. Now, giving credence to the value (and difficulty bringing the material from Afghanistan), Kingsley North, Inc. is offering Afghanistan Lapis Lazuli for sale at \$3.25/gram (in minimum lots of 20 grams). So, computing that there are 453.572 grams per pound, the equates to \$1,474.109 per pound - - and this is not even considered a gem stone! N. Onnen

LATER – For next Month

About the “Big Red Rock” (not to be confused with the “Big Red Dog”).

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))

Jan 4, 2024 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM METEORITES. OGMS member Vince Martini in person (with Steve Arnold, “Meteorite Man”, via Zoom link).

Feb 1, 2024 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM A Brief History of the American Watchmaking Industry”, Roger Middleton, Master Jewelry at Tivols.

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

Mar 7, 2024 – No regular monthly meeting

Mar 7, 2024 – Set up for March 8-11, 2024 Gem and Mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center

Mar 8 – 10, 2024 – The 62nd Annual KC Gem Show at KCI Expo Center

Apr 4, 2024 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM Gold Panning.

Apr 6,7 – Lincoln Gem and Mineral Show <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/annual-show>

Apr 26-28, 2024 – Wichita Gem and Mineral Show, Cessna Activity Center
<https://wichitagemandmineralsociety.org/show/>

May 2, 2024 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM TBD

June 2024 (TBD) – OGMS Annual Picnic

SPECIAL NOTICES

Feb. 17-18, 2024. The St. Joseph Chapter of the GPAA, Pony Express Prospectors Association is hosting a Gold and Mining Show February 17-18, 2024 at the Civic Arena in St. Joseph. If anyone would like to have a booth at the show, the most reasonable cost is \$40 for a 10X10 booth with tables and electricity available for an additional cost. The booth can be educational or used for retail purposes. The show will be held in conjunction with an antique show so there should be decent traffic at the booths. For more information or to request a contract, please contact Jerimia Unger, at jadoskis@gmail.com or by texting

at 816-215-9882. (This message is from OGMS member Deb Ballin / 816-232-5598
/ debballin@hotmail.com)