



ROCK SOLID

FEBRUARY 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: 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:

WELCOME, WELCOME, ETC.

Welcome to February, 2024 - - with the hint of spring, and OGMS field trips and activities to come. After a strange January, hopefully in this new month weather will moderate, the regional drought will be considered over and somewhat normal activities can be relied on.

Our Feb. 1, 2024 meeting will feature a presentation entitled “A Brief History of the American Watchmaking Industry” by Roger Middleton, a Master Jeweler at Tivol’s, and friend of OGMS member Larry Wells. Note that our regular March meeting WILL NOT OCCUR as we will be involved with setting up and helping with the March 8-10, 2024 Gem and Mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center. Our April 4 club meeting will be the much-anticipated gold panning event right in our meeting space. (Concentrate material has been obtained from a well-known and reliable Wyoming location). Our May 2 meeting will occur on schedule and a program is being confirmed. And, just before summer and family vacations, our annual picnic will occur on Sat., June 1, 2024. (See the **Upcoming** listing below for more details).

For new members, guests and visitors, our meeting will be in room 018 at Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS, Feb. 1, 2024, starting at 6:45pm (and ending at 8:45pm). Typically, our well attended meetings begin with a raffle (see raffle note below), followed by a very short welcome, announcements and general meeting, followed by the program presentation, and then visiting with old and new attendees as time permits. Light refreshments are available at each session.

As for the raffle, we wish to on a regular and continuous basis refresh the stock of items available, and as in the past, members are encouraged to bring donations of items to replenish the raffle table. Note that the sales of raffle tickets are applied to the furnishing of refreshments for our meetings.

METEORITES - - and METEORITEMEN

The program for our OGMS Jan. 2 club meeting consisted of a discussion of meteors and meteorites. Presented by our OGMS club member Vince Martini, with able assistance of Larry Wells, we were most fortunate, and entertained, to have Meteorite Man Steve Arnold (recall the meteorite session on Discovery) join us via ZOOM. Some may recall Steve also joining one of our club presentations in the earlier stages of COVID (in which he was actually suffering from that disease during the presentation). This time Steve was quite well, and provided additional information on his more recent activities and finds. The attached picture is a healthy Steve, dressed in support of the Kansas City Chiefs hopeful run to the Super Bowl. We also thank Dan McDaniel, along with several members, in organizing, setting up and getting the ZOOM connection operational.



AFMS Code of Ethics

OGMS members, for the most part, are aware that the club is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMF), which in turn is a member of the parent American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). As such each member club subscribes to the AFMS Code of Ethics, which, as a refresher, follows:

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Linda Hall Library Exhibit

Currently at Linda Hall Library is the free exhibition “Chained to the Sky, The Science of Birds, Past & Present”, through April 26, 2024. Included are actual study skins of the extinct Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, Passenger Pigeon, and Carolina Parakeet (on loan from the Field Museum). A success story portion of the exhibit features the recent initiatives in Missouri in which the Brown-Headed Nuthatch was reintroduced in the Ozarks after becoming extinct in the state 100 years ago. As is to be expected for this premier research library, their rare ornithology books are on display as a part of this current exhibit. A bonus to a Linda Hall Library visit is that attendees may view, touch, and photograph, if desired, the well-publicized malachite tazza which is placed in the center of their entry area. This piece has an interesting history, and contrary to reports, the tazza is not a single piece of malachite, but instead is a well-crafted mosaic of the mineral(s). This tazza was featured in a previous club bulletin (before being named Rock Solid).

Roadside Geology of Kansas

Recently published (by Mountain Press) is "Roadside Geology of Kansas", written and edited by James and Susan Aber., and M. J. Everhart. This recent publication, not to be confused with the 2010 Roadside Kansas by Rex Buchanan and James R. McCauley, has been obtained by a few interested parties and should be in most bookstores soon.

Kansas Academy of Science

An interesting source for current information (topics of “science, science education, or science history, with a particular focus on Kansas and the Great Plains region”) may be realized through The Kansas Academy of Science. Membership is open to all persons interested in science and science education. (Maybe most OGMS members??). Established in 1872, a historical review of the Academy activities and publications reveal participation and membership by many well-known scientists and lay individuals who have been pillars in the state and the region related to research, discovery, and emerging knowledge. In today’s world the Academy functions via annually elected officers, Council members-at-large and appointed officers (including a Kansas Junior Academy of Science Director). To the general membership, of interest is that The Academy organizes and hosts an annual meeting (revolves and rotates around meeting at the state universities - the most recent 155th meeting at McPherson College), and they publish the "Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science” (a well-received and anticipated document, which is published twice a year). These publications contain a very broad and current range of articles and abstracts (including authors/researchers and contact/reference information) which any member can find of some interest. Examples of three recent Transaction publications (2021, 2022 and 2023) of potential interest to earth science individuals include:

- A new fossil marine vertebrate assemblage from the Upper Cretaceous Fairport Chalk Member of the Carlile Shale in Russell County, Kansas, USA.
- For Want of Wings - A Bird with Teeth and a Dinosaur in the Family (Book review)
- Leidy’s Web: The contributions of Joseph Leidy’s network of scientists to Kansas paleontology
- Reappraisal of the glaciation of northeastern Kansas
- The first fossil bee from Africa

- Fossil vertebrates from the Juana Lopez Member of the Upper Cretaceous Carlile Shale in southeastern Colorado, USA.
 - Roadside Geology of Kansas (New book by Aber, Aber and Everhart, Review).
 - A Lidar Derived Structural Contour Map of the Barneston Limestone, Morris County, Kansas.
 - An Unmapped Late Holocene Normal Fault in the Saratoga Valley, Carbon County, Wyoming
 - A Diverse Fauna of Insectivorous Mammals from the Late Paleocene of SW Wyoming *
- * A co-author of this report is K.C. Beard, a 2000 MacArthur Genius awardee, who was advisor to Kathleen Rust (she presented to OGMS IN 2023) in her work regarding Ekgmowechashala (the Little Cat Man”).

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

Dr. Franek Hasiuk and Niobium (Nb)

Some may recall the very interesting Nov. 8, 2021 presentation to the OGMS by Dr. Franek Hasiuk of the Kansas Geological Survey entitled “Exploring for Critical Minerals in Kansas and Vicinity”. There have been requests to have Dr. Hasiuk return for an update presentation, and to that end there is the unfortunate news that he has left the KGS for other opportunities. But on this, all is not lost to OGMS. Not related to Dr. Hasiuk’s departure, KGS now has a new Director (as reported last month) and we are working to schedule someone in that organization to present the topic to OGMS in the near future. In the short term, there has been some development in the field of KS/MO/NE area critical minerals. In a recent “Opinion Correspondence” to the Kansas City Star”, the former editor and columnist for USA Today mentions” America’s only supply of niobium and among the largest supplies of other rare earths is between Kansas City and Omaha on a site that could encompass 7,800 acres not far from the Missouri River”. A look at a map indicates that site near the Missouri River could be in KS, Mo or NE (or IA), and as such could affect the entire area. The gist of the article was the concern related to environmental impact and “a boondoggle into endless legal tangle”.

Not to get ahead of any impact, still the possibility of having such a rare and unusual mineral(s) in the immediate vicinity is very thought provoking. Niobium, by the way, is a chemical element (Nb on the periodic table, formerly columbium -Cb), Atomic Number 41, is similar to titanium, has a ductility related to iron, and among other things is used in jewelry. For the most immediate purposes it is essential in the battery and electric car industry - - rare minerals for these uses presently coming mostly from China.

As for Dr. Hasiuk, the search for him will reach to the Tucson G&M show in February. His aunt is a charter member of the Tucson G&M club, and will be asked for information on his whereabouts.

Ice Man Otzi, Gary Staab and Tucson

A short film regarding the preparation of OTZI, the Iceman mummy, from the Alps (discovered in 1991) is now available for viewing on PBS (<https://youtu.be/Lr9jXJE363w>). Local paleoartist Gary Staab is featured. Gary has been a special exhibit participant the past two years at our March Gem and Mineral shows (but unfortunately will have to miss this 2024 show due to involvement in the Tucson show, and an installation of his work to be done in NJ).

For those already in and/or going to be in Tucson for that show (which closes Feb. 11) some of Gary's work may be seen at the Granada Gallery, 338 N. Granada Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701.

Family Vacation-oriented Fossil Digs

For those planning well ahead, and wishing to attempt a family fossil dig excursion, we suggest Googling "North Dakota Fossil Digs". For the 2024 season the North Dakota Geological Survey with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation offer organized and assisted digs at the Bismark, Pembina Gorge, Medora and Dickinson sites. The dig season is from late June to mid-August and includes full day and half day sessions for beginners and experienced adults. Age restrictions are minimum of 10 years old with no upper age limit. Expectations for each site are - - Bismark - dino age fossils; Pembina Gorge - sea monsters; Medora - swamp critters, and Dickinson - early mammals. Digs at the Marmarth and Whiskey Creek sites will not be on the agenda for 2024. (Ref.; North Dakota Dept. of Mineral Resources Geo News). N. Onnen

Big Red Rock Update

While suggested last month that the story of the Big Red Rock would be published this month, the effort still needs more time. While some of the segments are millions of years in the making, other are certainly hundreds and thousands of years of complexity. (Think geology, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)). So, after years and years, and then decades of confusion and inactivity, the big red rock account begs for more time to reveal the story. Stay tuned. N. Onnen

Road Trip Nostalgia

One of our "senior" members, Mike McClurg, wanted to share the following: (More next Month)

Burma Shave Advertising for the Old Goats

I'm sure that Burma Shave actually saved some lives. People laughed and then were more careful! It was a REAL "service" to America, even though it was an advertisement and it was one of the RARE "really useful" ones. For those who never saw any of the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history from the 1930's, '40's & 50's. Before there were interstates, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers' fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart each containing 1 line of a 4-line couplet... and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream. Read and enjoy!

A MAN, A MISS,
A CAR, A CURVE.
HE KISSED THE MISS,
AND MISSED THE CURVE. [Burma Shave](#)

DON'T STICK YOUR ELBOW
OUT SO FAR
IT MAY GO HOME
IN ANOTHER CAR. [Burma Shave](#)

TRAINS DON'T WANDER
ALL OVER THE MAP
'CAUSE NOBODY SITS
IN THE ENGINEER'S LAP. [Burma Shave](#)

SHE KISSED THE HAIRBRUSH
BY MISTAKE
SHE THOUGHT IT WAS
HER HUSBAND JAKE. [Burma Shave](#)

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT. [Burma Shave](#)

DROVE TOO LONG
DRIVER SNOOZING
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
IS NOT AMUSING. [Burma Shave](#)

BROTHER SPEEDER
LET'S REHEARSE
ALL TOGETHER
GOOD MORNING, NURSE. [Burma Shave](#)

CAUTIOUS RIDER
TO HER RECKLESS DEAR
LET'S HAVE LESS BULL
AND A LITTLE MORE STEER. [Burma Shave](#)

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))

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.

Feb 20, 2024 – “Rocks N Rolls” Colloquium Series, Kansas Geological Survey, entitled “Geoarchaeology and the New Space Race: Current Approaches to Space Heritage Preservation”, by Dr. Justin A. Holcomb. This is a free event at 9 AM in the Hambleton Auditorium at the Kansas Geological Survey on the KU campus. (Dr. Holcomb (PhD in Archaeology) is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the KGS and is directed by Dr. Rolfe Mandel who last year presented his work to the OGMS).

Mar 6, 2024 – Gem & Mineral Show space set up (Volunteers needed)

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

May 3 – 5, 2024 – McPherson Gem & Mineral Club 30th Annual Sale; 4_H Fairgrounds; 710 W. Woodside, McPherson, KS 67460. Free admission. Auction evening of May 4.
Larryrocks538@gmail.com

Jun 1, 2024 – OGMS Annual Picnic. 3:30pm, Shelter #3, Kill Creek Park, Olathe, KS

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)