



ROCK SOLID

JUNE 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: \$15.00 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:

With our May 2, 2024 club meeting, we have completed the most recent operating year (our “year” running from May to May), and many of us are on the way to summer vacations and other long-awaited activities. Since May 2 we have held the May 18-19 garage/driveway sale, had a field trip to Altoona, KS and next will have the June 1 picnic. So, while it seems the club is in recess, that is not the actual case and we look forward to remaining active and rockhound functional. Remember those ideas and plans we envisioned over the winter? Now is the time to put them in play, and bring those experiences (and specimens) back to share with our club.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the various summer activities as they are developed and identified (please watch for emails) and this fall when we resume our normal meeting schedule. Safe travels and remember to play rocks at every opportunity!!!!

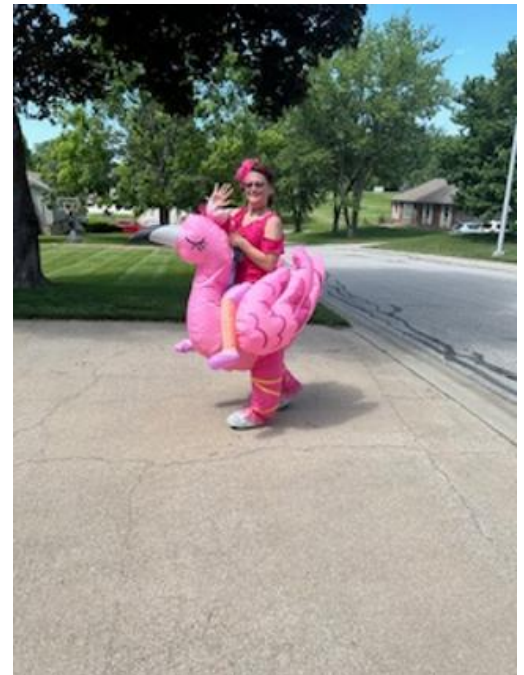
OGMS Picnic

Literally just hours away is the Saturday, June 1, 2024 OGMS annual summer picnic to be held at 3:30pm at Kill Creek Park in Olathe, KS (shelter #3). Sign-up sheets were available at our April and May club meetings, and email notices have been distributed asking for members to respond letting us know if they intend to participate (and to allow us to have a somewhat accurate count for obtain food). If you will be attending and have yet to sign up, please do so not later than Thursday, May 30.

As in the past, the club will be providing meat items (burgers and hot dogs), condiments and drinks. (No alcohol is permitted in the park). A silent auction will be held (please bring items for the auction, and some surprise prizes will be given). Finally, if you have specimens that need to be identified, this is a good opportunity to bring them and let us help test our skills in giving them a proper name.

OGMS Garage Sale

Testing our ability to predict the weather, the OGMS held a combination garage/driveway sale on Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, 2024 at the Shawnee, KS home of Barbara Crompton. While the results have yet to be completely compiled, by all accounts this event was a success in terms of club members planning and participation, volume of sales and dodging severe weather on both sides of the dates. Items offered for sale consisted of rock and fossil specimens, jewelry, equipment, etc. which had over time been donated to our club by members and others for the express purpose of club operations and youth education. The proceeds of the sale will be designated as stated. Hopefully, not overlooking anyone, the following volunteers were involved in this event in various ways. (The attached photo is of Nicole Garretson, our living billboard with energy to spare. This was on Sat. On Sunday she was a dinosaur).



Alison Betts
Barbara Crompton
Scott Crompton
Jeannie Feimster
Josh Foster
Rebecca Francis

Nicole Garretson
Leslie Hartman
Patricia Hernandez
Chris Leaver
Linda Leaver
Dan McDaniel

Norman Onnen
Mike Purduski
Courtney VanRavenswaay
Larry Wells
Cele Wood
Dale Wycoff

Rock Solid Bulletin Recess

Following the example of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (A.F.M.S.) and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS), our Rock Solid Bulletin will take a summer recess. As such the next Rock Solid will be distributed just prior to our Sept. 5, 2024 club meeting. That does not indicate that we will be out of touch as we will still distribute emails of interest, hold field trips, distribute Diamond Dan pieces and participate in events of interest when and as necessary. Please continue to watch for these notices, and feel free to communicate with us and each other over this summer period.

Fall Meeting Programs

Yet to be finalized, at either the Sept. 5 or the Oct. 3 club meeting, will be OGMS member Tom Tivol discussing semi-precious gemstones. Tom's presentations are always a highlight and eagerly anticipated. Don't miss this one. The reason for the indecision is that the alternate program/date is yet to be determined based upon the availability of the speaker who is on field assignment. Watch for an announcement once details are finalized.

In anticipation of Tom's presentation, the following is a semi-precious gemstone definition from "Joseph Jewelry" on June 9, 2022:

A stone that is less rare and less expensive than precious stones, but. Is still valued for its beauty. While precious gemstones refer only to the four primary stones—diamonds, rubies, sapphire, and emerald—semi-precious gemstones can refer to a number of other types of naturally occurring stones. These are stones that are less rare and therefore less expensive than precious stones. They are, however, still frequently quite beautiful and somewhat rare compared to non-precious or synthetic materials. Modern semi-precious gemstones include beryl, chalcedony, agates, onyx, tourmaline, spinel, topaz, turquoise, zircon, amethyst, Alexandrite, cat's eyes, bloodstones, moonstones, and sunstones.



On the HELP WANTED side of programs, we are seeking someone who could do a basic program on crystallography. Also, if members have a particular interest they wish to have a program on, please let us know of the topic and/or an individual who could do a particular program that would interest many of our members.

New Members (Since Apr 30 2024)

Jared Byers	OP, KS
John Massey	OP, KS
Mindy Massey	OP, KS
Alauna Massey	OP, KS

Salt Plains National Wildlife Reserve (NWR) and Whooping Cranes

Not directly related to OGMS, but of general related interest. Our club has in the past collected selenite crystals at the NWR, and was scheduled to again this past month, but this particular trip was cancelled due to the weather. Collecting at this site is prohibited from mid-Oct to mid-April in recognition of Whooping Crane migration and stop-over at this location. Now, on April 23, Whooping Crane 160-23, a.k.a. Animal was found in a suburb of Chicago, apparently lost on its spring migration back to the Baraboo, WI area (the International Crane Foundation site) where it was born, raised and released to the wild only a year ago. It was captured, checked for health and quickly transported to the Foundation hopefully to resume being a wild whooping crane and visiting the Salt Plains again this coming fall. (BTW, there are estimated to be only 831 whooping cranes worldwide, this following over 60 years of conservation efforts).

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

Arrow Rock, MO - and arrow making

Recently reading "The People of the River's Mouth, In Search Of the Missouri Indians", by Michael Dickey (U. of Missouri Press, 2011) one comes across mention of Arrow Rock, Missouri and of neighboring Indians resorting to the area for "stone used to point their arrows". Travelers across Missouri on I-70 may have seen a sign indicating Arrow Rock National Historical Landmark just 13 miles north in Saline County (this entire village designated a National Park by the National Park Service in 1963). Overlooking the Missouri River, the flint-bearing limestone bluff, according to archaeologists has been mined for over 12,000 years for the material and used as a manufacturing site for flint tools and weapons. On a 1732 French map the site is referred to as "pierre a flèche" - meaning "rock of arrows".

So, those interested in Native American artifacts will be familiar with Alibates flint (from Texas) and other frequently mentioned materials (including Mozarkite) for arrow and weapon making. But where is any reference to Arrow Rock material, and if it was recognized, by what name? This will be placed on a bucket list for research and a visit to the village this summer. (And as a bonus for those interested, Arrow Rock is on the Lewis and Clark Trail and was the home town to the well-known Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham). N Onnen

"Hozho" and the Navajos

In another recently read book (Wearing the Moon, Navajo and Pueblo Silver Buttons, Gary Brockton, Sky Hill Press, 2017) one come across the term Hozho, a concept so essential to the Navajo view of the universe that it defies translation into English, but to the Indian artist is a unifying principle of balance, beauty, and order in their creations. This can be clearly seen in the sequential development of their silver buttons (which are not buttons at all, but a "circumstance that freed thee silversmiths who made them from functional constraints.") Silver, called "the metal of the moon", became a material of choice to the Navajo (and Pueblo) artists as an import from Mexican artists following the 1863-1864 Long Walk in which the Indians were forced from their tribal lands to Bosque Redondo, NM. Following several years of starvation and captivity the Dine' (as the Navajo refer themselves) were allowed to return to their original, but much reduced in size, former lands. Here, through trading, intermarriages, and journeyman training between Mexico and Indian villages, the silver work developed and flourished, often using scrape materials and silver coins. In 1890 the government forbade the use of silver coins in jewelry. N Onnen

National Monuments

(The following partial report from Roger Burford, American Federation of Mineralogical Societies President 2023-2024, in the May 2024 A.F.M.S. Newsletter. Unedited except in "[]" brackets.)

National monuments are designated to protect public land and waters that have cultural, historic, ecological, and scientific importance to ensure that future generations can enjoy these places as we can today. They can be designated by the President, using the Antiquities Act of 1906. Since this act was created there have been 18 U.S. President's, nine from each party. Under the Antiquities Act the President is allowed to designate the "smallest area" required to protect waters and cultural historic sites. Under the act the President can create, but is not allowed to increase, reduce, or abolish a monument; this can only be done by Congress, and there are multiple ongoing law suits because President Trump ordered the reduction in size of the Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by almost half. Now those areas reduced are open to claims under the General Mining Law of 1872.

National Monuments are under the management of one or more of the following: U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service, U.S. Forrest Service, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. From what I have been able to discern, rockhounding is only allowed on land managed by the U.S. Forest Service and on some land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rockhounding on the "public" lands is managed by these agencies, and rules may differ from site to site.



Currently the major voices in dissent to the creation of national monuments have been from the cattle industry because of the reduction of the land available for grazing [and more recently from the mining and oil/uranium exploration industries].

With that, a personal view. In returning from an annual Rocky Mountain Federation Congress (held in Prescott, AZ) we found ourselves half way home and spending the night (and next couple of days) in Blanding, Utah. This community is at the edge (but somewhat distant due to the vastness of the area) of the two National Monument areas mentioned and is highly impacted by the politics surrounding the naming and management of national sites (jobs, jobs, jobs - - and environmental/conservation issues) For the rockhound and/or tourist this is a most interesting and challenging, but rewarding area to visit. Primarily Mormon, services are rather sparse and roadside dated. Care must be taken regarding discussions that might be overheard in public as sides of various issues are highly contested in deference to

the stated jobs (which are rare) and "outside" environmental/political issues. 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. 2024, visit ROCKNGEM.COM)

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

Jun 22,23 – Lincoln (NE) Gem and Mineral Club Summer Gem Festival, Beer Family Farm, 18701 Ashland Road, Ashland, NE. russellbroxterman@yahoo.com 785-256-2925, Admission Fee \$3 adults.

Jun 28 – 30 – Osage Gem Jewelry, Rock, Mineral, & Fossil Show, Eldon MO, Community Center, Eldon, MO ormc2024show@gmail.com Free Admission, Calcite theme.

Jul 27,28 – Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society 41st Annual Show; Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, SD WestDakota.Rocks@gmail.com

Oct 5,6 – Omaha Gem & Mineral Show, Liberty First Credit Union Arena, Ralston, NE Admission \$6 adult, seniors & 12-18 \$4, under 12 free. <http://nerockgem.org/>

Oct 25 – 27 – Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society 2024 Annual Show; OKC Fairgrounds, Admission fee \$8/day adults <http://orgs-minerals.org/> NOTE: This event combines the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Convention this year