



ROCK SOLID

MAY 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:

Our April 4 club meeting saw about 40 members eagerly trying their hands at indoor gold panning, something that has become increasingly popular with our urban based club. Concentrate material brought in from Wyoming and Northern Missouri was processed, and while there were exclamations of color being found, there is yet to be any report of anyone having found enough to encourage changing their lifestyles - - (YET, prospectors holding quantities of gold flower tend to be rather secretive). As this is an oft requested activity, we'll work to bring in a richer source of concentrate for the next 49'er experience sometime next year.

For our May 2, 2024 club meeting we welcome back KSU Grad Student Quinton Mindrup who will present "Sulfide Globules in Oceanic Basalts". While this subject matter to me seems broad and undefined, those interested in becoming somewhat familiar with maybe a related issue might Google "Oceanic Sulfide Globule Mining" which might raise some questions of our guest speaker. Some members will remember Quinton presenting his experience to us last year about working in the Baja California area.

Quinton will also be able to let us know about his very busy plans going forward. A very energetic student who was a part of the Olathe Geoscience Academy (they have presented to us), and he has now been a two-time scholarship awardee (this year and previously the first awardee of the Tom Lorenz scholarship given by the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City of which OGMS is a member).

Coming up is our May 18 and 19, 2024 club sale to be held at the home of OGMS member Barbara Crompton (6912 Reeder St., Shawnee, KS). Over time our club has been given items to be used for the education and operation benefit of the club, thus the purpose of this sale. To that end we will need help in setting up the sale (Friday, May 17) and during the actual sale times on May 18 and 19. Barbara indicates she will provide snacks and drinks for our volunteer help. More information as we get closer to the date. A sign-up sheet and discussion will be at our May 2 club meeting.

Also coming up is our annual picnic Saturday June 1st to be held once more at Kill Creek Park, Shelter #3 just south of Desoto. The club will provide the meat items and drinks, and a sign-up sheet (which was



started at our April meeting) will be continued at the May 2 meeting. In addition, emails will be sent where you can sign up digitally. Attendees are asked to list those attending (for a count of needed items), and side dishes they will intend to bring. As in the past we will have a silent auction, and there will be prizes (yet to be determined).

At our April club meeting, and in response to the club Board determination that we desire to remain financially stable (recognition of meeting room, operating expenses, insurance, etc.), in accordance with club Bylaws, we presented and had a vote on raising the annual dues by \$5 to \$15/year. This was unanimously approved by the members and becomes effective at this May 2 meeting. Our operating year is from May to May, and as such dues are now due, and our club Treasurer Barbara Crompton will be ready to accept the dues renewals and provide updated membership cards. (As a background note, our club, founded in 1956 and meeting in private homes at no expense, has, until now, never raised the price of dues.) We appreciate all of our members, and strive to remain viable and progressive into our future. Thank you for your support.

Field trip(s). Just prior to this Bulletin being issued, the field trip to the Great Salt Plains N. W. R. at Jet, OK on Sat., April 27 will have been cancelled due to weather conditions. This field trip will be re-scheduled. (As background, this site is open to collectors annually between announced dates in April and October. It is closed between the announced dates in October to April for migrating birds which occasionally includes whooping cranes.)

Association News

With the March 8-10, 2024 gem and mineral show completed, the following details subsequent to the follow-on Board meeting-

Attendance - 9,354 paid + 102 comp. passes. = 9,456 (down 1,319 from the 2023 show).

Two groups of students attended (177 students total), and 231 homeschoolers attended.

For the 2025 show

37 dealers have already sent back contracts.

Next year the tables will not be skirted by the Association volunteers - - a saving of \$1,500.

Consideration was discussed of having Liberty set up the tables next year for \$2,000. No decision was made at this time.

Club display cases count (total of 99 as compared to 101 for 2023) (\$30/case to each club) -

KMPS - 3

OGMS - 20

Sterling Guild - 10

Show-Me - 11

Bead Society - 8

IGAMS - 35

Pony Express - 12

Association officers through the 2025 show are -

Mandy Lorenz (OGMS) - President

Amy Buettner (Show-Me Club) - VP

Leslie Hartman, (OGMS & KMPS) - Secretary

Molly Stinemetz (IGAMS) - Treasurer

Announcement of contest for new t-shirts design. Submittals due by Oct. 10, 2024.

Discussion of placing money in a money market account to draw greater interest. Tabled until next meeting.

Association 2024 research grant & scholarship 15 awardees (scholarship awardees indicated by *) -

Fidelis C. Onwugba (KSU) \$500. *

Chenchen Shen (KU) \$500

David Burnham (KU) \$500

James Rickert (KSU) \$500

Brooke Benz (UMKC) \$500

Ivana Torres Ewert (UMKC) \$500

Parker Rhinehart (KU) \$500

Kevin D. Mulcahy (KU) \$500

Kristen Miller (KU) \$500

Cari Matthaei (KU) \$500

Kathleen Rust (KU) \$500

William Hunt (MU) \$500

Deborah Agbamu (KSU) \$500 *

Quinton Mindrup (KSU) \$1,000 *

Rory Sweedler (KU) \$1,000 *

Mary Anning and Our New OGMS member Lucy

"She sells seashells by the seashore." This old English rhyme was inspired by Mary Anning, a young girl in the early 1800's, who "discovered some of the very early dinosaur fossils and laid the groundwork for the brand-new field of paleontology - but she never got early credit for her work. Born in 1799 and raised along the cliffs along the English Channel at Lyme Regis, following the death of her father, she collected fossils and sold them to support her family - a time when girls and women were not allowed to work or have an education. These fossils usually sold to William Buckland, Henry de la Beche and William Conybeare who typically took credit for their discovery and identification. But she continued her collecting and in fact at only 12 years old found, with her brother, the first complete ichthyosaur along with numerous ammonites (to which most people attribute to her).

This now relates to the OGMS youngest member, Lucy Griffith from Portland, Maine who before becoming 9 years old, has actually collected ammonites at Lyme Regis at low tide. As a new and very recent member of our club, Lucy is interested in anything and everything. If she has a bucket list established, she can cross Lyme Regis off, but with her family (her mother is dual citizen Australian and American) they will no doubt have many adventures as she collects around the world.

A good read on Mary Anning is "The Fossil Hunter" by Shelly Emling, St. Martin's Griffin press, 2009).

New Members (Since Mar 31 2024)

Andrea Gentry	Lenexa, KS	Interested in gem cutting, mineral, fossils and "all"
Lucy Griffith	Portland, ME	(9-year-old youth member) Interested in everything
Christopher Leaver	Spring Hill, KS	Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making and crystals
Linda Leaver	Spring Hill, KS	Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making and crystals
Misty Long	St. Joseph, MO	Interested in "all"
Ysella Moore	Cameron, MO	Interested in "all"
Brian Schlosser	St. Joseph, MO	Interested in gold and diamonds
Thelma Jean Smith	St. Joseph, MO	Interested in jewelry making, crystals and minerals
Keith Sylvester	Kearney, MO	Interested in "hobby" with daughter
Lilliana (Lilli) Sylvester	Kearney, MO	(10 year old youth member) Interested in hobby and geology
Luci Tosh	Prairie Village, KS	Interested in "gems, but really anything educational"

Antarctica (and advanced age education)

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the U. of Kansas offers "enrichment short courses & special events especially developed for the folks 50 and better". The summer 2024 catalog has just been published and offers some "courses" that might be of interest to some OGMS members. One particular course that grabbed attention is simply entitled "Antarctica" and is to occur in person 2-4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2, 2024 at the KU Osher Institute campus (1515 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS). This course will be taught by Gisela A. M. Dreschoff, Ernie Angino and Randy Van Schmus. Ms. Dreschoff spent 20 field seasons in Antarctica and Greenland (and has the Antarctica Dreschhoff Peak named in her honor) and has an adjunct appointment in geology and physics/astronomy at KU. Mr. Angino, a retired professor, studied energy resources and geochemistry more than 45 years in and about Antarctica, and has the Angino Buttress (an Antarctica mountain range) named in his honor. Mr. Van Schmus, a retired KU geology professor, has done research in Antarctica, Africa, Canada, the U.S. and performed extensive research on meteorites for the U.S. A. F.



A sidebar note to the above. I plan to attend the Aug. 2 presentation, and of particular interest is that in my personal collection, I have the companion specimen of basalt with moss and algae that was collected and provided by Ms. Dreschoff, and is the subject of research ("Terrestrial arthropods, Marie Byrd Land, Antarctica" and



"Prostigmatic Mites and Other Terrestrial Arthropods of Antarctica" by R. W. Strandtmann, and others,

published in the Antarctic Journal in 1967 and 1978). The moss and algae remain intact, while the mites and arthropods presumably have perished - - or if not, remain safely in my basement garage. See included photos. N. Onnen

Appetite for Apatite

On a recent trip to the East coast, with little to no advance planning, I ended up in the small town of Auburn, Maine, which other than summer and fall (leaves turning) tourist attractions offers little incentive to make it a place high on any bucket list for visiting. That being said, in an idle moment and under the influence of heavy rain, the standard tourist brochures were scanned and it was revealed that I was only 6 blocks from a 300-acre free community park named Mt. Apatite. That sounding like a mineral, required further investigation, and it turns out this Mt. was in actuality several small wooded hills with several easy hiking/biking trails and abandoned small quarries - - which in the past surrendered specimens of the mineral apatite. This unusual and popular park is of interest to knowledgeable rock hounds as it continues to yield apatite specimens (and several other related minerals) with very little effort. The park as mentioned is within the city limits and with parking at an adjacent emergency training facility is readily accessible — so much so that families with toddlers, as well as rock hounds backpacking shovels and buckets were observed coming and going in spite of rather frequent rainfall. In response to my rock hound fever, I started up a trail between rain showers but had to turn back with the next rain squall - - but along the way picked up several rocks, one of which is proving to contain a small specimen of apatite which is being carefully extracted as a “proof that I was there example.” Interestingly, the community invites rock hounds to dig in the several quarries and tailings with the instruction that no mechanical equipment be used, and no holes deeper than two feet be excavated (which is no problem in this pegmatite). For the tourist who plans ahead, Auburn is easy access being only 1-2 miles off of I-95, the main N-S access into Maine, and as another bonus (unknown to this unprepared traveler) the rather well documented Poland, Maine tourmaline camp (while being fee based) is only another 5 miles further off the Interstate.

FIELD TRIPS:

Due to weather, the field trip to the Great Salt Plains N. W. R. at Jet OK was postponed, but watch for an email for updated trip information.

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

The Loss of Lortone and MK Diamond – A Tale of Two Companies

Over the last month, I have learned these two companies will no longer exist. As I have purchased numerous parts for saws and tumblers over the last few years, I find it sad and distressing with their demise.

My experiences with Lortone were mostly good. I was able to order parts for various saws and tumblers over the years. As many may know, Lortone produced “more affordable” versions of lapidary machines including Saws, Tumblers and Arbors. I have noticed over the last 6 years Lortone reduced their offerings of equipment as they eliminated their slab saws, and their parts for these saws became harder to acquire. On March 6th this year, they officially indicated they were closing as of March 29th. Here is a link to the letter that was sent out. This letter was posted on the Rock Tumbling Hobby Forum website. <https://forum.rocktumblinghobby.com/thread/104806/lortone-out-business-tumbler-discontinued>

I can totally understand Lortone’s position. I really hope they find a buyer for the company and are able to revive Lortone.

On the other hand, my thoughts on the loss of MK Diamond are mixed. There is no doubt in my mind the saw blades produced by MK were very good. I have purchased many, and find they hold up very well. However, the last time I tried to buy a blade through MK Diamond was in May 2021 during the height of the pandemic and blades were hard to come by at a decent price. When I ordered the saw blade, they had no problem in taking my money, but they had not told me the blades were not in stock and were on back order. After waiting a couple of weeks for the blade and it not showing up, I called them at which time they said it would be shipping out by the end of the week. A week went by and no confirmation of shipping, so back on the phone. This time they said that it would be shipping from Indonesia shortly as this is where they said the blades were being made. (What happened to US manufacturing of these blades.) Again, they said it would be a couple of weeks before shipping (from Indonesia). Well again, no confirmation, so I called again. Same story. I then asked them to cancel the order and return my money. They did, but I think I am a lucky one. This letter from MK Diamond was posted on the Rock Tumbling Hobby Forum website.

<https://forum.rocktumblinghobby.com/thread/104688/mk-diamond-declares-bankruptcy#:~:text=Despite%20its%20long%2Dstanding%20presence,cease%20operations%20and%20declare%20bankruptcy.>

See the following YouTube Link for a commentary from “Currently Rockhounding” on MK’s demise from his point of view. His discussion starts at 2:22 and goes to about the 8:00 minute mark. Also, the 112 comments are also interesting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63dCQZ32SQ>

Will MK Diamond and Barranca Diamond come out of this in some form or fashion? I guess only time will tell.

D McDaniel

Garnets

OGMS member Mike McClurg has provided information indicating that garnets are now used as index minerals explaining geological events such as mountains. From the article “Garnets are not just for adorning necklace or rings: they are windows into the past, offering clues about Earth’s geological processes. Renowned for their rich colors and durability, garnets have been cherished since the time of the Egyptian pharaohs, but their significance extends far beyond their aesthetic appeal. Garnets are a group of silicate minerals with a cubic crystal structure composed of various metal ions, including aluminum, calcium, and iron. This diversity in composition makes garnets unique among minerals,

allowing them to form under a wide range of geological conditions.”

In the 1800's the British geologist George Barrow identified zones where some minerals, including garnets, could explain the metamorphic history of rocks (showing a range of temperature and pressure conditions which would explain the formation and transformation of the Earth's crust. Now, used to explain the formation of the Alps and the Himalayas, garnets containing the mineral coesite reveals the pressure and depth under which the garnets were formed. Other diagnostic features indicate models of stacked rock slices forming rising mountains rather than channels of hot materials pushing upward. Sources of this research information may be accessed at the following -

ga.gov.au/education/classroom-resources/minerals-energy/australian-mineral-facts/garnet
and

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/these-gems-solved-a-himalayan-mystery/ar-BB1kXVJw?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=LCTS&cvid=48064017ebaa41009f1fa6797eff6815&ei=102>

For a good start in understanding garnets, Bob Jones in his 2011 published “The Frugal Collector” offers “*Most collectors know that there are six related garnet species, each with a distinct related chemical composition. If you cannot call a garnet by its proper name, simply call it a “garnet”.*

Almost all garnets are calcium, aluminum silicates or magnesium, aluminum silicates or calcium, iron silicates. If that confuses the new rock hound, it is suggested to re-read this (several times if necessary) with a good rock and mineral guide in hand to explain the differences one-by-one.

The six garnet groups are 1) pyrope, 2) almandine, 3) grossular, 4) andradite (a variety of this is the green “demantoid” - the most valuable of all garnets), 5) spessartite, and 6) uvarovite. This is the simple explanation. For those wishing to more fully understand garnets, be conscious that the colors, etc. of the various species are from the metallic cations (calcium, magnesium and iron) in their chemistry and in that they are interchangeable and can change the specimen's color. As such, the combinations of these metal elements as they join silicon dioxide can create some 60 varieties (per Bob Jones).



For OGMS club members that vacation in Colorado, the various guides list Ruby Mountain (between Salida and Buena Vista, CO, but actually very near midpoint Nathrop, CO on state highway 17). This is mentioned since Ruby Mountain is within sight of Nathrop, but equally because Nathrop is home to the large "Rock Doc" shop which is not to be missed by any and all rock hounds. As for Ruby Mountain, the site yields no rubies, but in fact has garnets (which the locals have long since called rubies), topaz and Apache Tears. Further afield (in the four corners area), on the Navajo Reservation are “ant hill garnets”. These small, but very colorful garnets, surround actual ant hills and are exposed in place due to the often-strong desert winds removing lighter materials thus leaving the garnets. For the most part these little garnets are not collectable to the casual visitors (due to reservation access restrictions), but are usually available for sale from the tribal woman who collect them to

supplement their incomes.

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)

May 2 – OGMS monthly club meeting: 6:45 - 8:45 PM Quinton Mindrup Presentation on Sulfide Globules in Oceanic Basalts

May 3 – 5 – 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

May 10 – 12, 2024 – Central Missouri Rock and Lapidary Club Show in Columbia MO.
<https://cmrlc.org/rock-%26-mineral-show>

May 18,19 – Olathe Gem and Mineral Society “Giant” rock and jewelry sale. 10am-4pm each day. 6912 Reeder St., Shawnee, KS (Barbara Crompton’s home). MORE INFO TO COME.

May 18 – Tulsa, OK (This item listed as a last-minute notice from the RMF. Apparently, an estate sale with more information to be provided soon).

May 19 – Topeka Treasure Hunters Open National Hunt; Hoyt, KS City Park (402 890 3307 or 402 429 3323). Hunt fees apply.

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