



ROCK SOLID

SEPTEMBER 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 **6:00 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 2024 – 2025:

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 back OGMS members, guests and visitors.

Another long hot summer is almost a thing of the past (but record-breaking heat continues) and we are ready to actively begin our new (May 2024 - May 2025) operating year. Hopefully our members were able to spend quality hobby time out and about, and are well stocked with items and ideas to carry them over until the next summer excursions. Some, as myself, still have such broad intentions from previous years to catch up on.

Recall that our regular monthly meetings are on the first Thursday of the designated months - access schedule time to the building is from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please do not enter the building prior to 6 pm for these regular meetings, and we MUST exit the building by 9 pm.

For your planning, here is the presently established (but not totally complete) schedule of events, meetings, etc.

Regular club meetings, the first Thursday evening of each month (with noted exceptions):

Sep 5, 2024	Program - Tom Tivol presenting "Semi-precious gemstones"
Oct 3, 2024	Program - Swap and shop (along with mystery rocks, fossils opportunity for identification)
Nov 2024	TO BE DISCUSSED. NOV. 1-3 G&M SHOW
Dec 2024	NO SCHEDULED GENERAL CLUB MEETING
Jan 2, 2025	(Program yet to be determined)
Feb 6, 2025	(Program yet to be determined)
Mar 2025	NO SCHEDULED GENERAL CLUB MEETING DUE TO THE MARCH 7-9 G&M SHOW
Apr 3, 2025	Program - Dr. Justin Holcomb; KS Geological Survey, "The Western Stemmed Tradition" Recent Discoveries in the Far West" *. **
May 1, 2025	(Program yet to be determined)

* Dr. Holcomb is a new member of the KS Geological Survey and brings an amazing portfolio of experience and interests. A Google search of his bio reveals this information in advance of his presentation.

** A request by several OGMS members to obtain Dr. Franek Hasiuk for a return presentation of his search for critical minerals in the region has been unsuccessful in that he has left the KS Geological Survey and is now at the Sandia National Laboratory in Alb., NM where he continues his funded research and is therefore presently unavailable to us.

Note that while arrangements are underway, programs are yet to be established for the Jan. Feb. and May 2025 meetings. All suggestions and leads are welcome.

To the above, please note that the holiday party has been scheduled at the church for Thursday, Nov 21, 2024, and the annual picnic is scheduled at Kill Creek Park for Saturday June 7, 2025. The Nov. G&M show will occur Nov. 1-3, 2024, and the March 2025 G&M Show will occur March 7-9, 2025.

Where were you in 1956?

A little OGMS history. According to stacks of club bulletins, bank statements, boxes of other documents, etc., 1956 (only 68 years ago) was the founding year of our club. What is not readily apparent is the name(s) of the club over time. Maybe just after 1996 it was named the Olathe Shawnee Mission Gem and Mineral Society for a period of time. At some point (yet to be identified) the Shawnee Mission element split away from the organization and began their own club, only to disband a few years later. Many members of the various groups still lurk the Kansas City area and remain active in clubs (and The Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Inc. - which this year cited organizing the 62nd annual G&M show, making the establishment of that organization at about 1962). Perhaps some of the original members can embellish and clarify the dates and facts of these occurrences.

(BTW, in 1956, I was still a grade schooler picking up any and every rock and fossil along the Illinois and Vermillion Rivers in central Illinois - a time when access to quarries and private lands were still possible. I still have many of these rocks and fossils, many of which are now considered Leaverites by some).

New Jewelry Shop (in previous jewelry shop).

Just a week ago, Adriani and Doug Brooks opened Brooks Fine Jewelers at 8221 Corinth Mall in Prairie Village's Corinth Square. The space, occupied by Tyler Kingston Mercantile for the last six years, had before that been the home of Jewelry Arts which closed after many years at this site. This being the first store that Doug Brooks has owned outright, he previously managed another store and will be designing and custom-fabricating pieces for specific customers. Several OGMS members were the recipients of equipment, fixtures, etc. from the Jewelry Arts closing. (Ref. KC Star; 8/28/24).

T-shirt design competition

A reminder that the Association has opened a competition for the design of a new T-shirt. The newly designed shirt is intended to be selected and produced in time for the March 7-9, 2025 gem and mineral show. The competition is open to all members of the Association clubs and submittals (5 allowed from each interested party) are to be emailed to Bruce Stinemetz (brucestinemetz@att.net) by Oct 1, 2024. The design may involve the front and/or back of the shirt and should not indicate a date (as the shirts will be made available for multiple years). The winning entry will receive a \$50 prize and their own t-shirt.

Passing(s)

It is with regret that we let our OGMS members know of the unexpected passing of one of our members. Sherri Lynn McLaughlin of Olathe passed away on July 31, 2024 at the age of 61 and is survived by her daughter Kaitlyn, as well as her mother and a sister. She recently traveled to Arkansas with her daughter where they enjoyed ziplining and collecting crystals. As her hobby, Sherri designed jewelry using crystals and semi-precious gemstones for which she was very accomplished.

Also passing, however remote from our club, was Robert William “Bob” Jones who passed away in June at the age of 97. Bob was a forever editorial contributor to Rocks and Minerals magazine as the Senior Consulting Editor and Editor Emeritus, and for 64 years could always be found at the Tucson Gem and Mineral show where he enjoyed meeting rockhounds and usually autographing his books - the most recent being The Frugal Collector (of which many eagerly awaited the publication of a follow-on book). He will be sorely missed at the annual Arizona affair where he was a welcome fixture. Perhaps his collector son will produce a book covering the very many collecting trips and mines Bob as a pioneer explored and experienced.

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

What is Sioux Quartzite, or maybe what is Pipestone?

This question occurs in response to recently reading that “pipestone” is actually only Sioux quartzite. Can that be so, as the Sioux quartzite that is common in and around the glacial deposits of NE KS is hard and certainly not easily carved into Indian ceremonial pipes? This prompted a planned August trip to the Pipestone National Monument in SW Minnesota (the trip which never occurred due to August floods in the area). So, that cancelled trip prompted armchair research, which clears up incorrect statements in a book (you cannot always believe what is published). From a National Park Service document “Pipestone National Monument, Minnesota” it is described that the subject geologic formation consists of “a thick stack of ancient layered rocks exposed in parts of southwest Minnesota, southeastern



Platform effigy pipe bird NPS Photo

South Dakota and northwest Iowa.” The

formations, deposited in an ancient river consist of

three rock types - bottom to top: clay (the actual pipestone, now known as “catlinite”), quartzite (sand) and conglomerate. About 1.6 billion years ago, pressure and heat turned the clay and sand into stone,

which in the Pleistocene's Ice Ages were exposed by the glaciers.

The "quartzite (sand)," now clearly identified as the Sioux quartzite, has a Mohs hardness of 7.5 while the clay (Pipestone) is 2.5 (about the hardness of a human fingernail) on the Mohs hardness scale. This explains why the soft pipestone has been a source for pipe making for centuries, and why the glaciers destroyed the pipestone while easily transporting the Sioux quartzite into Nebraska and Kansas. An extension of the armchair research reveals that while Native Americans for centuries used the "pipestone" for carving ceremonial pipes, it was not the only claylike sedimentary rock used for this purpose. The Hopewell Culture National Historical Park near Mound City, Ohio (a significant location containing a very large number of pipes) finds that only one platform effigy pipe (see photograph) was made from Minnesota "catlinite", while others were made from Scioto River Valley (Ohio) clay, Sterling Pipestone (a claylike material found in Illinois), Missouri flint clay (site, etc. unclear), among other sources.

Regarding Sioux quartzite in the Kansas City area, numerous large boulders may be seen along Missouri highway 45 (between I-435 and Weston, MO), some as glacial deposits and others arranged as landscaping in yards long the route. In Kansas City, at the Thomas Hart Benton historical home the entire courtyard between the main house and his barn/studio is made up of hand-crafted cobbles of Sioux quartzite. And finally, the glaciers were responsible for rafting the large quartzite boulders to the area, and deposited them in place upon the retreat/melting of the glaciers. This is a generally accepted explanation for how these came to the area, however there is a very large boulder along Missouri highway 2 (between West Line, Missouri and Harrisonville, Missouri) that defies current explanation as it is significantly south of the furthest reach of the area glacial, and must too large to be moved by human hands. But there it is. *N Onnen (Ref. National Park Service, and Indian Mounds of the Middle Ohio Valley).*

Diamonds in Colorado

OGMS member Mike McClurg earlier this year forwarded a paper entitled "Searching for Placer Diamonds" (WY State Geological Survey Information Pamphlet 12, dated 2004) by W. Dan Hausel. The immediate reaction was that this paper described the late 1800's fraud of diamonds and other precious gemstones being salted along the CO/WY border for the purpose of defrauding investors and bankers in California. (The scheme worked to perfection - - for a while, but ended in tragedy for the perpetrators and several investors, resulting in prison sentences, suicides, etc., and in fact some remnants of the salted site may still be found, but is scarcely worth the effort and time to look for anything of significant value).

The cited pamphlet, however, is an interesting read and involves a different site along the CO/WY border in which the author describes several extinct volcanoes and deeply eroded kimberlites, which to his explanation should be the source of numerous placer deposits of interest to prospectors. The underlying intent of the paper is to assist the prospector to become familiar with identifying diamonds in the rough and placer potential in general. With that, he cites 40 "known" area kimberlites which have been subject to erosion depths of 400 to 5000 feet from 600 to 400 million years ago. And he indicates that the George Creek kimberlite yielded more than 89,000 diamonds from "bulk sample tests" in the 1980's and another 40,000 diamonds using the same test from the Sloan kimberlite. But in all he

chronicles about only a handful of diamonds ever being found and states “historical placer diamonds in CO and WY have been rare” and “diamonds have never been reported in any of the drainages downstream... .. yet it contains 40 known diamondiferous kimberlites”. But he closes stating that the drainage districts “undoubtedly” contain thousands of diamonds. There has not been a “diamond rush” to the area based upon literature or collection evidence to date.

And now, the biggest recent diamond finding



Lucera Diamond

The biggest diamond in over a century was found in Botswana at 2,292 carats. The government says the huge diamond is the second-biggest ever discovered in a mine, and is the largest found since 1905. (Source: NPR). (BTW, the largest diamond ever found was the Cullinan at 3,106 carats in South Africa).
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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)

Sep 20 - 22 – Mozarkite Gem and Mineral Show 816 N W 250 B C Lincoln, MO 65338

Sep 27 - 29 – Keokuk 20th Annual Geode Fest <https://keokukiowatourism.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-Geode-Family-Fest-Registration-Form-and-Information.pdf>

Sep 27 - 29 – Tri-State Gem and Mineral Show, Joplin, MO <https://www.joplin-museum.org/>

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 12,13 – Topeka Gem & Mineral Show <https://www.topekagms.org/society-information/annual-show/>

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.

Oct 26,27 – Springfield Rock, Gem & Mineral Show, Springfield Expo Center. <https://ogms.rocks/events/>

Nov 1 - 3 – 45th Annual Kansas City Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, & Bead Show. KCI Expo Center

Nov 21 – OGMS Holiday Party

Mar 7 -9, 2025 – 63rd Annual Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show. KCI Expo Center

Sep 19 -21, 2025 – Rocky Mountain Federation Congress, Grand Junction, CO