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# ROCK SOLID

## OCTOBER 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](http://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:**

Finally. The summer heat has abated, much needed rain has fallen, and now, hopefully, we can experience and enjoy being outdoor rockhounds and fossil collectors for a few weeks. Can you believe that for two days last week, Breckenridge, Colorado experienced winter storm warnings and significant snowfall? And the aspen leaves have yet to start turning.

SUMMARY of OGMS club activities through Dec. 2024.

Our Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024 club meeting will be a **joint activity**, rather than a formal meeting and program, we will once more have a much-requested swap n' shop event. Members will be setting up tables and displays of their items they wish to swap or sell. There will be no fee for sales tables, etc. Proceeds will stay with the individual. The "joint" activity of this meeting will be Mark Sherwood (he is the individual who sets up his equipment at the March gem and mineral shows) bringing his equipment and expertise to ID our mystery specimens. There will be no raffle or refreshments provided for this particular meeting.

On Nov. 1-3, 2024 we will be participating in the Shows of Integrity Gem and Mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center. As in the past, it is anticipated that our members will be allowed sales tables at this event. (The decision and information on this will be available following the Association Board meeting to be held on Oct. 10. Watch for information following that Board meeting).

On Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024 we will have a regular OGMS club meeting (this program yet to be determined). NOTE that we normally do not have this Nov. club meeting in that we would be preparing for the upcoming Shows of Integrity event. Our decision to hold this Nov. meeting is a result of the unusual configuration of the Nov. calendar and the fact that the Shows of Integrity event occurs first this month. The raffle and refreshments will resume for this meeting.

On Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024 we will once again hold our annual holiday party/catered meal/gift exchange (to be held in the "Cafe" space on the upper floor). A sign-up list has been started for those wishing to participate in this event and we will continue to accept names for the party during our Oct. 3 and Nov. 7 club meeting(s) as well as online registration via upcoming emails. As in the past, the member share cost for this event is \$10/person (youth \$5/person).

We will not have a club meeting in Dec. 2024. Normal schedule will resume on Jan. 2, 2025.

### **TYT (Thank You Tom)**

We once more thank OGMS club member Tom Tivol for another of his very knowledgeable and entertaining presentations - - this most recent one (Sept. 5) on "Semi-precious gemstones". In spite of the KC Chiefs scheduling their first game of the season on this date (and our meeting was on the calendar first) our meeting was attended by more than 35 club members and guests - - a witness to the vibrant interest in Tom's always insightful presentations. His past presentations have been on

diamonds, gold, pearls, and antique jewelry - - and we look forward to challenging Tom on other gem and mineral topics as well. A highlight of this particular presentation (to me) was that as usual Tom brings in examples of the topic at hand. In this particular case he displayed a piece of jewelry containing a very fine padparadscha faceted sapphire. This was a real treat as the pink orange padparadscha is so very rare that most of us are likely never to see such an example except in a museum. Of interest, the blue and pink orange sapphires are considered the most desirable and expensive of gemstones. The difference is that the blue contains traces of titanium and iron, while the pink orange padparadscha contains traces of chromium and iron. It is understood and accepted in the industry that virtually all sapphires are now heat treated. The critical element and intent of this is color stability (which can be verified only through specific testing) and the fact that there must be a solid buyer/seller trust relationship and verification as to any treatment of such gemstones.



**TYT - - plus Fuchsite**

Also, at our Sept. 5 meeting Tom Tivol had a small specimen he was seeking to identify. It turns out that

it was determined to be Fuchsite - - a form of the mineral muscovite, and also known as "chrome mica". Fuchsite was named after mineralogist Johann Nepomuk von Fuchs (whose surname rhymes with "books"). Fuchsite forms when the aluminum (Al) atoms in the muscovite molecular structure are replaced with chromium (Cr) atoms - - the slight chemical difference which produces the green hue distinctive of fuchsite. Additionally, the presence of potassium (K) makes fuchsite very slightly radioactive since 0.012% of potassium naturally occurs as the radioisotope 40K (which is harmless). So, most are familiar with biotite, muscovite and maybe phlogopite and lepidolite of the mica group, but researching fuchsite one suddenly learns that it is only one of 37 specimens contained within the mica group. Thinking that was of interest, I tried to find a listing of these 37 types, and using Google and other search mechanisms was only able to find related mention (but no list) of the 37



*Photo: EON Collection*

occurrences. Tom's specimen most likely came from Brazil (the world's foremost source), however fine specimens have come from Pakistan in the past. Backing up, one learns that the mica group consists of phyllosilicate minerals which are rock forming and are the largest and most important class of minerals, and make up approximately 90% of the earth's crust.

Getting easily sidetracked, I stumbled upon mention of carved mica specimens from the Hopewell culture (2000 years ago; 300 BC - 600 AD). These mound builders of the middle Ohio Valley placed finely crafted large mica cutouts (1/4" thick silhouettes of hands, bird claws, etc.) in graves. Forensics have traced the origins of this material from the southern Appalachians thus signifying the amazing trade network and material craftsmanship of this culture well before the

development and use of iron implements. Have you ever tried to cut and or shape a piece of mica without the fragments and pieces disbursing onto everything?



*Photo: Wikipedia commons*

### **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](mailto: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.

### **OGMS History and Mystery**

A chance visit this spring to an area Half Priced Bookstore resulted in me rescuing a book that once belonged to Virginia Brown (now deceased and a former OGMS member). Ms. Brown in 1975 apparently was involved, via the Association, in arranging for John Sinkankas (nationally a very well-known gemologist and subject related author) to be a speaker and participant at the March 1975 KC gem and mineral show. The book of interest was "Gemstone & Mineral Data Book", by Mr. Sinkankas and in this case was sent to Ms. Brown with an inscription thanking her for "making our stay in K.C. a pleasure". In reviewing the contents of the book, it is found that Mr. Sinkankas in discussing phosphorescence of minerals, mentions that some exhibit "exceptionally persistent phosphorescence", and that one fluorite continued to emit a visible phosphorescence for more than 4 years. The mystery persists in that he does not identify the source of this particular fluorite.

### **Membership Dues**

On Sept. 3, 2024 our club treasurer had an email message concerning annual dues sent to all of our 2023-2024 OGMS members. Our club membership renewals are due each May (as our operating year runs from May to May). We are required to submit an annual report to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (of which OGMS is a member) for the purpose of insurance coverage and compliance. Please, if you are behind on your membership dues, catch up as requested in the following message by Oct. 3 so that you are not dropped from the rolls. N. Onnen

Hello all,

A reminder, if you have not paid your dues for the new year, your dues are past due.

Dues are \$15.00 per person per year, or \$5.00 per year for students 12-17 years of age. Dues are free for members under 12 years old.

If you have not renewed your membership, you may pay at the October 3rd meeting, or you may mail a check to:

*Barbara Crompton  
6912 Reeder St.  
Shawnee, KS 66203*

#### **New Members (Since May 2024)**

Amy Goode	Overland Park, KS	Interested in gem cutting, jewelry making and fossils
Will Goode	Overland Park, KS	Youth, interested in gem cutting, jewelry making. and fossils
Randy Hole		

#### **FIELD TRIPS:**

Any field trips for this time of year are dependent on the weather, and if one is scheduled, an email will be sent to the membership.

If you have any ideas for a field trip, please let me know by email or text [hartman.12345@hotmail.com](mailto:hartman.12345@hotmail.com) or 785-380-6016. Lesliee.

#### **NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS**

##### **Sobering Thought(s)**

Not a gem and mineral item, but of particular interest, the combined companies of Colossal Biosciences and Re:wild, recently indicated that 12% of the bird species, 26% of mammals, 31% of sharks and rays, 36% of reef-building corals and 41% of amphibians are at risk of extinction. (Being a mammal, one wonders where man realistically and specifically fits into this analysis on a day-to-day basis).



These firms have been involved in saving the California condor (in 1982 there were 22 individuals left, and now there are over 500), and the Florida panther (in 1995 there were about 30 left, and today there are about 200). (Source: Los Angeles Times). N Onnen

### **Mim Museum Watch (and concern)**

Those paying attention to world conflicts, will have become aware and concerned of the present Mideast conflict involving Israel, Gaza, Iran and Lebanon. Specifically in Lebanon this past week there have been the simultaneous explosions involving pagers and walkie talkies being carried by suspected Hezbollah fighters and members - - and now there are targeted explosions in Beirut (the capital of Lebanon) of buildings purported to house bunkers and offices of the Hezbollah. Regarding Beirut, this is the location of the famed mim Museum of Minerals (and fossils). This museum, begun in 1997 by Salim Edde' (a listed Senior Fellow of The Mineralogical Record) houses some of the best mineralogical specimens in the world. Mr. Edde', a "reclusive man who is never seen at mineral shows" who is a very wealthy individual and co-founder of Murex (a Paris based communication/electronics business) has been acquiring the best mineral specimens available from private collections and other museums around the world. With the current tension the mim museum today (Sat., Sept. 28, 2024) posted that the facility is "exceptionally closed" and the statement "Thank you all for your concern and support. Culture and education are the only tools toward peace. Let us all keep this in mind and hope". Inserted is a photograph of a world class fluorite specimen now at and potentially at risk in the mim Museum. Note the "chain of ownership" - ex Crystal Classics, ex Dr. Peter Bancroft which represents the typical quality of specimens being assembled at the mim. N Onnen



*Photo source: The Mineralogical Record*

## **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](http://ROCKNGEM.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 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 7** – OGMS Club Meeting (Note: This is an add on meeting)

**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