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# ROCK SOLID

## NOVEMBER 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**. 6:00 to 7:00 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:**

The year end is rapidly approaching and many things are happening. First is the Nov. 1-3, 2024 Gem and Mineral Show at the KC Expo Center. Several OGMS members are planning to have sales tables at this event and should plan to set up on Thursday Oct. 31, 2024 in the afternoon. As in the past for this event, 10% of the sales is to be given to the club.

Next, we will have a club meeting on Thursday evening, Nov. 7 at the Hope Chapel. The program will be a presentation by Dr. Patricia Ryberg, Paleobotanist and Associate Professor of Biology, who will discuss her work and the geology and fossils of Antarctica. (NOTE THAT WHILE WE NORMALLY DO NOT HAVE A CLUB MEETING IN NOV., THIS YEAR WE HAVE DECIDED TO HAVE SUCH A MEETING SINCE THE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW HAPPENS THIS YEAR PRIOR TO THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH).

And finally for the month, we will hold our club holiday party (starting at 5:30pm) in the Cafe area of the Hope Chapel on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024. The catered meal will begin at 6pm and will be followed by the gift exchange. The cost of the meal is partially covered by the club, with participants share to be \$10 per member (\$5 for those 12 and under). Wrapped gifts (about \$10 value) will be distributed by lottery and as in the past, may be captured/traded. (The details of the gift exchange are more clearly explained in the email registration form that was preciously sent out). There also may be occasional drawings for special items. There is still time to register for the party and it would be helpful to have a near complete list by our Nov. 7 club meeting.

We will not have a club meeting in Dec. 2024. We are looking forward to starting anew with our normal scheduled on Jan. 2, 2025.

Through all of this we wish all to have a happy holiday season. Please use this winter season to catch up on all of the to-do-list of rock and mineral related activities so that a fresh start can be productive in 2025.

### **Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)**

On Oct. 25-27, 2024 the RMFMS Annual Congress was held in conjunction with the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society 2024 Show in Oklahoma City, OK. Notes from that event follows:

In the fiscal year 2022-2023 the RMFMS had 12,887 total members (compared to 10,099 members in 2021-2022).

There has been a change in insurance carrier(s) from the previous year. Details are yet to be presented, however premiums for each club are expected to be reduced.

Incoming officers (nominated and elected) are:

President - Jim Grey (from WY)

Vice President - Steve Kaminski (from AZ)

Secretary - Liz Thomas (from Tulsa, OK)

Treasurer - Gene Maggard (from Wichita, KS)

Historian - Cinda Kinkier (from Topeka, KS)

State representatives for CO; NM/TX; OK/AR; SD/AR; Ut; WY remain as in the past year. State representatives for AZ/NV and KS will be selected and identified as existing representatives stepped down effective at this Congress

There were three field trips during the show. Results are yet to be reported.

Field trips at this Congress were as follows - -

Sam Noble Museum (private behind-the-scenes-tour of the vertebrate paleontology museum); Norman, OK (46 miles RT)

Lake Stanley Draper Rose Rock Hunt (31 miles RT)

General Material Rock Hunt (33 miles RT)

Boley Agate Field Trip (152 miles RT)

(Results for these trips are pending from participants) (Maps of each site are now in the OGMS library, however it is noted that some of these locations were access permitted only for this Rocky Mountain Federation event).

From the show (held at the OK State Fairgrounds) -

There were 40 vendors (including Charles Spencer - Unique and Rare Stone Jewelry, and the Mineral Habit, from KCMO and Lee's Summit), a fluorescent room, children education programs/activities and competitive displays including judged specific entries.

Of particular interest was a special exhibit of portions of the Marie McDaniel Kennedy Collection. This self-educated mineralogist, who died in 1999 at the age of 100 years and 8 months old, donated her lifelong collection, appraised at over \$140,000, to various Oklahoma institutions (including the OK Mineral and Gem Society). She and her husband are credited for their discovery of the selenite beds at the Great Salt Plains. Significant is her thumbnail rock/specimen collection consisting of 18 handcrafted display boxes (900 compartments/specimens). (Attempts are underway to display this collection at a future KC show).



### **Native American Artifact Authentication Services**

Are you aware that there is an organization (Indian Artifact Authentication Authority - IAGA) a group of individuals, that provides authentication services for Native American artifacts? Not surprisingly, it is recommended that those interested in having an item authenticated contact a listed "consultant" in the area that the item to be ID'd/authenticated was found. For this Midwest area the listing includes six individuals from Bethany, MO; Mount Pleasant, IA; Temple, TX; Lynchburg, TN; Nacogdoches and most

conveniently from Blue Springs, MO. This last consultant is Roy Motley who displays his knapping skills (along with OGMS member Bear Carpenter) each March at the KC gem and mineral show. If needed Roy's contact information is KEM Consulting, 299802 SE Moreland School Road; Blue Springs, MO 64014. Typically, these individuals can provide a certificate of authenticity (COA) indicating authenticity, value and province.

## **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**

### **Herkimer Diamonds**

In response to multiple inquiries about Herkimer "Diamond's" it is revealed (as most rockhounds are somewhat aware) that these are not at all diamonds, but are in fact "transparent mostly flawless crystals of quartz commonly known as Herkimer diamonds and are one of the most sought-after minerals from New York State". (The Herkimer quartz is now the official state mineral, while the official gemstone is garnet). The named crystals are usually preceded by the name of the locality where they are found, i.e. Herkimer (NY State, USA), Mararosh (Ukraine), Mirabeaul (France), Oviedo (Spain), etc.

The common characteristics of the crystals are that they are usually short, have equal dimensions, often are scepter growths, seldom grow larger than a few centimeters in diameter (however the Herkimer diamonds often are in much sought after clusters), and they have few faces (usually limited to r, z, m and s). The corresponding faces are not uniform in size (indicating that each face may have grown at different rates). The occurrence of these crystals is in cavities or vugs (stratabound) in limestone or dolostone which has calcium and/or magnesium present. While these dazzle in their clarity, there are a variety of inclusions including hydrocarbons (gas, liquid and solids), brine, pyrite, anthraxolite, calcite, and other minerals.

Rockhounds, intent upon collecting Herkimers, should be aware of the many changes in management and/or ownership of the sites over time, and in fact some are known by more than one name. The following represents a recent listing:

Herkimer Diamond Resort. (Was formerly known as Schrader's, Van Atty's, and Herkimer Diamond Development Corporation)

Ace of Diamonds. (Formerly known as the Petrie or Tabor Farm. This is immediately adjacent to the Herkimer Diamond Resort.

Middleville Quarry (North of Middleville in Herkimer County).

Treasure Mountain. (Formerly known as the Parmon and Pederson farms. This may now be closed).

St. Johnsville Quarry. (Previous known as the Talarico quarry, Eastern Rock Products quarry, Benchmark quarry, and Hanson quarry. Collecting may be permitted during open hours.)

Diamond Acres. (Formerly known as Hasting's farm).

Hickory Hill. (Formerly known as the Baker farm. Fee collecting on several weekends each year).

Crystal Grove. (West of Lasselsville, Fulton County, NY).

Most recently, appearing on Facebook, is Diamond Mountain Minig LTD in Little Falls, NY. This appears to be in the near area of Herkimer, is a "rock shop" and on-line sales organization. It is not presently known if they have their own mine and/or lease sites and permit fee access. Diamond Mountain Mining has just posted their 1/2 price digging fee (now \$50 starting Nov. 1) for the remainder of the year - - which is identified as being until a freeze sets in.

Finally, if one is not too tired digging "diamonds" and are baseball fans, Cooperstown, NY (the home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum) is only about 30 south of Herkimer. This is a great place to visit (except on Hall of Fame weekend as lodging is limited in this rather small community.) It is also the home of Ommegang brewery for those who like Belgian beers. N Onnen

### Collectables

In doing research on mineral specimens in an estate, it was discovered (this should have been anticipated) that mineral specimen labels are collectables also, and are highly prized, particularly if a well-known name is included. As such, there is "The Mineralogical Record Label Archive", a collection of original, printed mineral specimen labels representing mineral collections from all countries spanning the last 200 years. This collection consists of over 15,000 items which are filed alphabetically in 48 "stock books" (albums).

On [MineralogicalRecord.com](http://MineralogicalRecord.com) website will be found images of some of the labels, along with



biographical or background information on the collector, dealer or institution in each case. Presently listed are 3,066 labels, some of which are cross-references - and the effort continues to be a work in progress. The last accessible update was July 22, 2007. N Onnen



### Update on “The Loss of Lortone”

In the May 2024 OGMS Rock Solid Bulletin I posted about the demise and loss of Lortone as a lapidary equipment manufacturer. Some good news is the company was acquired by Covington Engineering and they appear to be making some Lortone tumblers again as they have a couple listed on their website.

[https://covington-engineering.com/search.php?search\\_query=lortone](https://covington-engineering.com/search.php?search_query=lortone)

I hope they will continue to expand their operation. D McDaniel

### Do You Recognize this Rock?

I didn't, but it reminds me of rhyolite I have found in New Mexico.

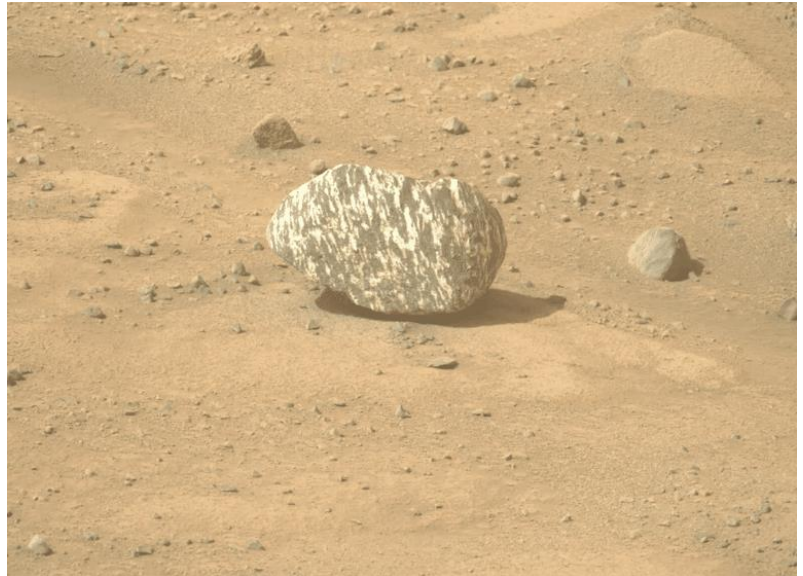
Credit Daily Galaxy

*“In a startling discovery, NASA's Perseverance rover has stumbled upon a peculiar zebra-striped rock on the Martian surface, igniting curiosity among scientists and space enthusiasts alike. This intriguing find, dubbed "Freya Castle," stands out starkly against the red Martian landscape, prompting questions about its origin and significance.”*

I guess I need to travel a little further to add this to my collection. To read the whole story go to:

[https://dailygalaxy.com/2024/10/how-did-it-get-there-a-](https://dailygalaxy.com/2024/10/how-did-it-get-there-a-mysterious-black-and-white-striped-rock-discovered-on-the-surface-of-mars/)

[mysterious-black-and-white-striped-rock-discovered-on-the-surface-of-mars/](https://dailygalaxy.com/2024/10/how-did-it-get-there-a-mysterious-black-and-white-striped-rock-discovered-on-the-surface-of-mars/) . D McDaniel



Credit Daily Galaxy

## 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](https://rockngem.com))

**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

**Jan 2** – OGMS Club Meeting

**Feb 6** – OGMS Club Meeting

**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