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# ROCK SOLID

## JANUARY 2025 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: Lesliee Hartman (785)380-6016

Field Trip Coordinator: Lesliee 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: Lesliee Hartman

Association Delegates: Chet McLaughlin & Mandy Lorenz

Alternate Assoc. Delegates: Larry Wells

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

OGMS members, guests and visitors. Welcome to the 21 and one quarter century. It is hard to believe that almost 1/4 of the 21st century is almost over, and just to think it seemed such a short time ago we were worried about the impact on our lives and computers when the clock struck 2000. But time, and geology waits for no one - - and there are still rocks and specimens to consider and contemplate.

Of first importance in this new year is our first club meeting on the calendar - - that being Thursday evening, Jan. 2, 2025. Our program for this meeting will be "Gemstone Identification" by a distinguished team of Tom Tivol, Mark Sherwood and Larry Wells. They will discuss equipment commonly used, such the refractometer, dichroscope, polariscope, laser spectroscope, ultraviolet long-wave and short-wave light, Chelsea filter, specific gravity seals, diamond/moissanite detector, immersion fluid, 10 power loupe, and possibly additional equipment.

And then for your calendar, the following - -

**Feb. 6, 2025** - Club meeting. Program "Tri-State minerals and mining history" by Blair Schneider, Kansas Geological Survey

**March 7-9, 2025** - Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show.

**April, 3, 2025** - Club meeting. Program "The Western Stemmed Tradition and the Initial Peopling of the Americas: Recent Discoveries in the Far West" by Justin Allen Holcomb.

**May 1, 2025** - Club meeting. Program "Geologic Time" by Rebecca Francis

**June 7, 2025** - Annual summer club picnic. Kill Creek Park, Olathe, KS

### **Association Needs**

The Association is in need of donations of identifiable mineral specimens to be placed for sale at the Association booth for the March 7-9, 2025 gem and mineral show. The stock has been greatly diminished over the past few shows and we need to replenish items. All sales go to the Association scholarship fund.

### **Club Needs**

The club needs donations for the club raffles. The inventory is extremely low, so to continue the raffles, please provide rocks, minerals, etc. All proceeds from the raffles are to fund the snacks provided at the meeting.

## **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**

### **Bones of Contention**

A rather quick winter evening read - - "Big Bone Lick", by Stanley Hedeem discusses the large Kentucky woodland salt lick located just south of Cincinnati, Ohio. This feature, long known by the Native Americans (relatively recently by the Shawnees), had prehistoric significance in that as long as 20,000 years ago (even before or during the ice age) animals were using this natural exposure to supplement their diets need for salt. Similar to the sink holes in South Dakota and California, large, now extinct and extant animals attracted to the site became mired in the clay and slippery banks leaving witness to their plights. Included in the inventory were helmeted musk ox, elk-moose, bison, mastodon, mammoth, sloth, and more recent victims such as elk, caribou, cougar, wolves, and deer. Early man (think Clovis) also visited the site, supposedly to feast on trapped animals which were easy prey. The large, deep site has been excavated portion-by-portion from the 1700's into the 1960's and is for the most part now a state park (but subject to additional excavations as interest and funding is approved. A rather modern connection to the site is that the extinct passenger pigeon and Carolina parakeet also frequented the salt flats. To their demise, man saw to their extinction and the last of these died in the Cincinnati Zoo in the early 20th century where sadly their stuffed remains are on display.

Another interesting piece about the site is that early researchers (think 1700's) thought that the tusks of the mammoths were actually the horns of early bison. Imagine a bison with horns each over 17 feet long! Thomas Jefferson had some fossils from this site and thinking that extinction was not possible directed Lewis and Clark on their expedition to be looking for, and documenting, the location of similar animals that surely must still be in existence in the western part of what was to become the United States. 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](http://ROCKNGEM.COM))

**Jan 2** – OGMS Club Meeting

**Feb 6** – OGMS Club Meeting

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

**Apr 3** – OGMS Club Meeting

**May 1** – OGMS Club Meeting

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