



ROCK SOLID

FEBRUARY 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

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:

Welcome to February, and the urge to be out and about. We've now had hopefully our one major winter snow storm and will now prepare to finish the winter chores and be ready to assume the roles of proper rock hounds, nature lovers, etc. Some of our members have already stationed themselves in Quartzsite, AZ, and others are soon to travel to the Tucson show where we will meet up in that annual frenzy. However, before heading south, we prepare for our February 6th OGMS club meeting.

As always, we look forward to seeing our members at these OGMS club meetings, and welcome visitors and guests. These meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in room 018 at the Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS starting at 6pm and ending so that we can be out of the building by 9pm each time.

Our program for the Feb. 6 meeting will be "Mineral exploration in the Tri-State district: Legacies of the past and new opportunities in the future" by Blair Schneider; Associate Researcher and Outreach Manager, KGS. Dr. Schneider will discuss the mineralogy and mining of that important KS/OK/MO region, its historical economic importance, any access/collecting opportunities, and the Superfund clean-up efforts. Dr. Schneider's bio is as follows - -

***Blair Benson Schneider** is an Associate Researcher and Education Outreach Manager for the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) at the University of Kansas. She earned her PhD and Master's degree in Geophysics from the University of Kansas, and her Bachelors of Science in Geology from James Madison University. She completed a postdoc at the University of Kansas Center for Teaching Excellence before beginning her position at the KGS, where she focused on STEM course transformation and multi-institutional collaboration. Dr. Schneider's research focuses on two separate fields: near-surface applied geophysics for archaeological and forensic exploration, and broadening participation in the STEM workforce. Schneider was recognized for her work in 2019 with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) Special Commendation Award, and in 2013 with the Association for Women Geoscientists Presidents Award. She currently serves as the president of the Association for Women Geoscientists Foundation, an international organization devoted to recruiting and retaining women into the Earth Sciences. Dr. Schneider is co-Principal Investigator of the Department of Energy funded CORE-CM project, which is focused on addressing the upstream & midstream critical mineral (CM) supply chain and downstream manufacturing of high-value, nonfuel, carbon-based products, to accelerate the realization of full potential for carbon ores and critical minerals within the U.S.*

Looking ahead, **we will not have an OGMS club meeting in March** as we will be involved in the March 7-9, 2025 Gem and Mineral show at the KCI Expo Center. (See below for additional show information)

For our April 3 and May 1 meetings our programs will be (in April) "The Western Stemmed Tradition and the Initial Peopling of the Americas: Recent Discoveries in the Far West" by Dr. Justin A. Holcomb, KGS; and (in May) "Illustrated Timeline of the Earth" by OGMS member Rebecca Francis.

And for your calendar, we are scheduled for our annual summer picnic on Sat., June 7, 2025, at 3pm at Kill Creek Park, Olathe, KS.

March 7-9, 2025 Gem and Mineral Show

As OGMS is one of the 8 area clubs organizing and running the show, we need club members to be involved (volunteering in setting up on Wed. and Thursday, March 5 and 6; manning assignments during the show, and placing individual display cases for the duration of the show). Sign-up sheets have been started, and will be available at the Feb. 6 meeting for those able and willing to help. Also needed are donations of specimens and/or gem and mineral items to be used in the show live and silent auctions - - remembering that proceeds from these auctions go to the Association scholarship fund. Also remember that our current paid OGMS card allows our members into the show.

We normally place about 20 display cases in these shows (for which the club receives a financial contribution from the Association). As of this Bulletin we have 10 cases committed and need about 10 other members to indicate they will place cases. The club has several cases to lend for members that need to borrow them. Please contact at onnenne@kc.rr.com if you can fill and place one of these cases.

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) Items

The RMFMS (of which the OGMS is a member) is seeking individuals to fill the following positions:

- Fluorescent Tech Committee Chair
- Fossil Tech Committee Chair
- Lapidary Tech Committee Chair
- Mineral Committee Chair
- Public Relationship Committee Member
- Webmaster
- Webmaster Contest Chair

Some of these positions are to be available at the end of a current term, while others are presently vacant. If anyone is interested in any of these positions, please contact me and I'll get you the description of the positions, and put you in touch with the RMFMS person involved in filling the position.

Also, the RMFMS has recently gained two new chapters, those being -

- Bittineau Rockhounds of Bittineau, North Dakota (about mid-state E-W, and just 8 miles south of Canada.
- Little Sahara Rock & Mineral Society of Waynoka, OK (not far west of the Great Salt Plains near Jet and Cherokee, OK).

If traveling in either area this summer on vacation, it might be possible to contact these clubs for area collecting information and hospitality.

Phillipsburg (area), MT and Glacial Lake Missoula

Several OGMS members have visited the Phillipsburg, MT area seeking sapphires. While this is a "bucket list" destination for many rock hounds, most do not realize or recognize, the geological importance of the area. Literally on the doorstep of Phillipsburg is one arm of ancient Lake Missoula. This massive

lake, a product of glaciation, played the defining role in the geology of western Montana, the Idaho panhandle, eastern Washington State, and down the Columbia River gorge all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The results were spectacular coulees, gullies, deserts and scab lands all along the way.

How Lake Missoula formed is in itself unique. During the Pleistocene, the glaciers extended multiple times into this area. Due to the configuration of the adjacent mountains, the glaciers in their movement forward and then in retreat as the climate fluctuated, would release the melt water into a land locked area for which there was no immediate discharge route. Over a lengthy period of time a massive 30-mile-long ice dam formed and all was well until the level of the impounded water was such that the huge dam floated and immediately collapsed. Immediate is the key here in that the constrained volume of water within a few hours and days emptied to the west through where the ice dam once stood. The critical element here was that the volume of water was humongous - - believed to be the equivalent of 1/2 the present capacity of Lake Michigan (500 cubic miles of water). And while there were no believed human witnesses to the event, estimates are that the discharge resulted in waves across the landscape of 300 feet high and several miles wide.

While the statement that no human witnessed this event, that might be in error in that now it is believed that more than one (maybe dozens) discharge occurred over several hundreds or thousands of years, and a most recent one might have occurred while early man was established in North America - - in the range of 12,000 to 13,000 years ago +/- . Surely no one, or nothing, in the path survived, and as unique and unusual as this event(s) was, it is now thought that similar massive events might have occurred in the area of ancient Lake Aggasiz (eastern North Dakota western Minnesota and southern Manitoba), as well as in the Alway Mountains of Siberia.

(Note: The Dec. 2024 issue of the Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter has a picture of the extent of Lake Aggasiz in the Red River Selenite Rosettes article. All OGMS members were copied on this issue.)

(Source: "Glacial Lake Missoula and its Humongous Floods" by David Alt, and "Bretz's Flood" by John Soennichsen.)

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 or 785-380-6016. Lesliee.

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Timely Footprints

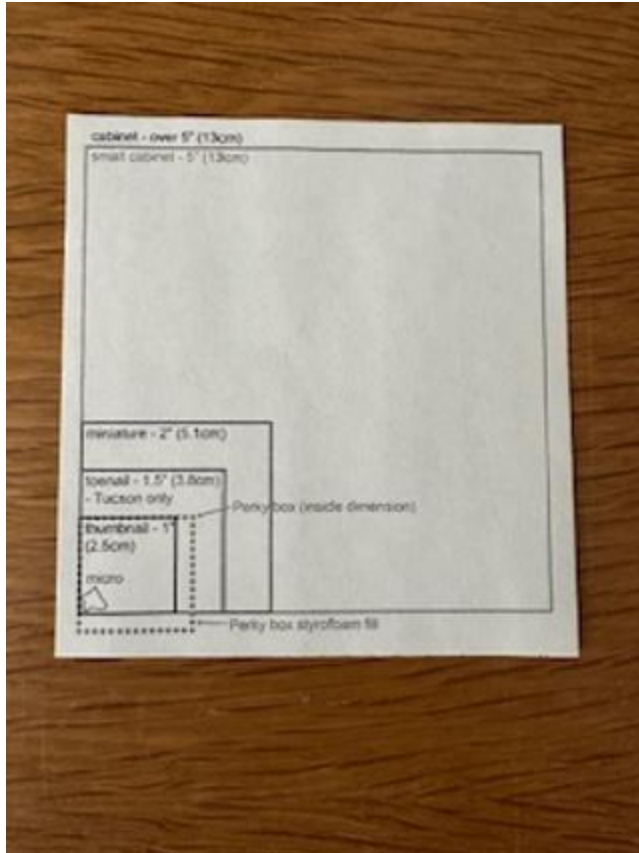
Only by coincidence, in 2024 on the 200-year anniversary of the first scientifically named and described Megalosaurus dinosaur at Oxford England, workers have discovered a trail of five clawed footprints about 60 miles NW of London. Believed to be 166 million years old, the prints are attributed to a Cetiosaurus and a Megalosaurus. The former is described as being 60 feet long and weighing 2 tons, while the Megalosaurus was considered to be at least 30-foot tall. In the encounter of the two dinosaurs, they apparently were walking at a steady pace and then suddenly stopped (without explanation by the research team). The discovery site expands an already excavated “dinosaur highway” consisting of more than 40 sets of footprints across 200 yards of pathways, making it one of the largest sites in the world. (NY Times) N Onnen

Specimen Sizes

While not every rock hound collects with the intent to display and enter their collection in competitions, standards have been established such that different categories are normalized in the hobby. To that end most hobby suppliers’ stock and sell individual mounting boxes of standard sizes. While special sizes and configurations may be obtained, the usual specimen sizes are as follows:

Cabinet	over 5 inches
Small cabinet	under 5 inches
Miniature	2 inches
Toenail	1.5 inches (for competition, only recognized by Tucson)
Thumbnail	! Inch (fits in a standard “perky box - - a 1” cube)
Micromount	No official size, but manageable under a microscope
Micromineral	A specimen that is not permanently mounted, but needs magnification

(Related to thumbnail specimens, the Oklahoma City Mineral and Gem Society was willed the Sara Marie McDaniel Kennedy (1898-1999) highly organized and cataloged collection of 120 thumbnail specimens. She and her husband, Ned, self-collected all of these specimens, including the selenite from the Great Salt Plains site for which they were credited the location discovery in the very distant past. This club displays this collection at their annual gem and mineral show in Oklahoma City. (See the RMFMS item concerning a new club above in the Presidents Message)).



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://www.rockngem.com))

Feb 6 – OGMS Club Meeting

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

Apr 3 – OGMS Club Meeting

Apr 5,6 – Lincoln Gem and Mineral Show <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/2025-midwest-federation-convention>

Apr 25 – 27 – Wichita Gem and Mineral Show <https://wichitagemandmineralsociety.org/show/>

May 1 – OGMS Club Meeting

May 2 – 4 – McPherson Gem and Mineral Club Annual Rock Sale <https://www.mgmc.club/>

Jun 7 – OGMS Picnic

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