



ROCK SOLID

APRIL 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 in mid-November 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

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Field Trip Coordinator: Leslie Hartman (785)380-6016

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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:

How's this for spring? As recent as Wednesday March 19 we've had snow. And then just 6 days later it was over 70 degrees, with predictions of only 35 degrees overnight on March 31, and then quickly back into the 70's. But so as to not become complacent, there are some that recall snows over past Easter weekends (in the good 'ol days). With this, we're eager to undertake being real rockhounds following an on again, off again winter season. To that end many of us were involved in and participated in the March 7-9, 2025 Gem and Mineral Show (which by all accounts was a significant success), and some of us will have participated in the first 2025 club field trip on Sat., March 29 to near Yates Center, KS (and are eager for more.)

So now finally comes our April 3, 2025 OGMS club meeting. As a reminder to past, new members and visitors/guests, we meet in room 018 at Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS, 66062 from 6pm to 8:45pm the first Thursday of the month. (Please watch our Rock-Solid Bulletin for the meeting schedule(s) and anticipated presentations, along with special events such as field trips, club picnics, holiday parties, etc.)

For our April 3rd meeting we are pleased to have scheduled a presentation by Justin A. Holcomb, PhD, Kansas Geological Survey who will discuss "The Western Stemmed Tradition and the Peopling of the Americas: Recent Discoveries in the Far West". As background, Wikipedia defines "Western Stemmed Tradition" as "... a Paleoindian archaeological culture known from the Intermountain West of North America, particularly the Great Basin and the Columbian Plateau, spanning from over 13,000 years before Clovis (and thus overlapping with the more well-known Clovis culture) to around 8,500 years Before Present". Dr. Holcomb is associated with Dr. Rolfe Mandel who presented his related work in the Yukon to our club in 2023. Here is his Bio.

Dr. Justin A. Holcomb, Associate Research Professor, Kansas Geological Survey (KGS). Justin Holcomb is an Assistant Research Professor at the Kansas Geological Survey, housed within the University of Kansas. He earned his PhD in Anthropological Archaeology from the Department of Anthropology at Boston University, and is a former Predoctoral Fellow at the Malcolm H. Wiener Laboratory for Archaeological Science at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens Greece. Justin studies geological approaches to the archaeology of human dispersals into new landscapes and environments.

The March 7-9 2025 Gem and Mineral Show

While final figures are yet to be provided at the next Association Board meeting (on April 10), by all observations and comments from visitors and vendors, this 2025 G&M Show was a complete success. Weather fully cooperated, and we were not competing with a Comiccon event this year (not that that event had a negative impact on our 2024 G&M show). Many thanks to all of our OGMS members who



participated in the planning, set up and execution of "our" (with the other seven Association clubs/members) show once more. It



appears that our club placed 30 cases/exhibits, which is a record and we will strive to match that at our future shows. While many of our members were directly involved, it is hoped that those who were unable to be physically involved were still able to attend and appreciate the show. Thank you, thank you, thank you.....

Looking forward, the fall show will occur on Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, 2025. Mark your calendars.

Missing Exhibit?? - March 7-9, 2025 G&M Show

There have been inquiries about "What happened to the eagerly requested and anticipated hands on "Nature Brought to Life" special exhibit by Gary Staab for the March 7-9, 2025 Gem and Mineral Show?" (This in recognition of Gary participating in the 2023 show). As it turns out Gary had to, on very short notice, cancel his scheduled appearance at this year's G&M Show in response to an award of a contract to design,



sculpt, and bronze cast two bison for The Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. So, while Gary was missing in action for our show, he was very much involved (see the attached photo with Gary, his back to the viewer) in beginning the process of planning and executing the awarded project. The photo shows Gary, and his crew, setting up frames and life-sized profile representations of what the bronze castings would look like on each side of the mall entry to the museum. It will be interesting to learn what bison version the completed castings will represent (Bison bison - - 10,000 years ago to the present; Bison antiquus - - 18,000 to 10,000 years ago; Bison occidentalis the immediate ancestor of Bison bison and Bison athabascae; or Bison latifrons - - the ancestor of them all, and the largest bison to live in the Americas over 20,000 years ago.) FYI Bison latifrons, was enormous with shoulder height of over 8 feet, weight of 4,400 pounds and horn spread of over 8 feet. (Source: The Buffalo Book, Dary, David A., 1974; Big Bone Lick, Hedeem, Stanley, 2008).

Haskell Cultural Center & Museum; Haskell Indian Nations University

A Special Exhibit at the recent G&M Show included a display of 1970's - 1980's student jewelry and basketry work. A flyer was available at the show indicating the Haskell Cultural Center & Museum hours. At the time of the show, due to President Trump's directive, Haskell staff was reduced by almost 35% which resulted in reduced hours for all Haskell University services. As a result, the Museum is only open on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 10am-4pm until further notice. Persons actively doing research or needing access at other times may request an appointment which will be honored as staff is available. (The Museum is on the Haskell campus 2411 Barker Avenue, Lawrence, Kansas 66046. www.HASKELHISTORY.COM)

As an odd turn of events, The Smithsonian Institute announced that the Haskell Museum will be the first Kansas site to display "Americans" (an exhibit curated by Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche) and Cecile R. Ganteaume) from Aug. 29 - Oct. 5, 2025 has just a few weeks ago. It remains to be seen as to if that exhibit and schedule is to be accomplished in light of the Federal staff and budget cuts. STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS. (Should the exhibit occur, the final stop will be May 30 - July 5, 2026 at the Wyandotte County Historical Museum near Bonner Springs, KS).

LAST MOMENT CHANGE - - - FOR NOW, THIS EXHIBIT HAS BEEN MOVED AND WILL OCCUR AT THE WATKINS MUSEUM IN DOWNTOWN LAWRENCE (11th & Mass.).



New Members (Since Oct. 3, 2024)

Pam Maben	Lenexa, KS	Interested in "All"
Justin Socolofsky	Topeka, KS	Interested in "All"
Michael Oller	Eudora, KS	Interested in "All"
Dana Reed	Olathe, KS	Interested in "Digging in the dirt" & crystals, minerals, fossils
Kevin Peavey	Kansas City, KS	Interested in crystals, minerals, fossils & field trips
Oliver Lindquist	Olathe, KS	Interested in "All"
Kirstie Lindquist	Olathe, KS	Interested in "All"
Maggie Lindquist	Olathe, KS	Interested in "All"
John Lindquist	Olathe, KS	Interested in "All"

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. Leslie.

ANNUAL DUES:

Per our bylaws, dues are due by the May Club meeting. Dues not paid by September are considered delinquent. If you have questions on your due's status, please see our Treasurer Barbara Crompton.

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Prehistoric (and Historic) Rockhounds

Ignoring the fact that cave men crudely crafted and used cobblestones as weapons and tools, it is recognized that prehistoric humans understood the use of particular minerals and naturally occurring elements - - apparently a result of trial and error over considerable periods of time. Most readers are somewhat familiar with Mesa Verde and the Pueblo cultures. At the time of Mesa Verde habitation, and into the 1400's, there were numerous, (some estimate thousands of) Pueblos scattered throughout portions of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. In prehistoric times unto about 1300 many of these were abandoned with no fully understood explanation of why nor where the inhabitants went. Fast forward to 1540's when Spanish explorers came into the area and encountered over 100 pueblos, or villages, the inhabitants being in a manner horticulturists using grinding stones to process food, and making pottery vessels for cooking, storage and trade. To some degree the origin of the native inhabitants could be recognized only via understanding or comparing eight different language groups spoken in the various villages and/or adjacent areas. Then came the native revolt in August of 1680 in which the entire Pueblo population of north-central New Mexico expelled the Spanish (the Spanish "peacefully" reconquered the region in 1692). This revolt/turmoil period "was intense, some villages were temporarily or even permanently abandoned, battles and bloody massacres occurred, populations

shifted into new locations, new alliances were formed, and cultural traditions were threatened at every turn.”

The above is a prelude to the question of where these inhabitants came from (or where they went). Now a study of pottery (primarily centered on the Santa Ana Pueblo in New Mexico focusing on the year 1700 going forward) reveals more than was expected. Native potters over time discovered, or recognized, the need to modify the base material (clay) for making pots, jars, etc. The clay (AKA “paste”) varies from place to place, (notably for base reference the Hopi Pueblos of northeastern Arizona), some being very smooth, pure and hard firing thus not requiring any modification depending upon the intended usage (utilitarian, cooking, storage, plain or decorated, trade, etc.). Near Taos and Picuris Pueblos, for comparison, it was over time recognized, that that particular clay naturally contains quantities of mica which served as a natural tempering agent which enhanced the paste and permitted the potter to realize that the clay cannot be used by itself. Without the addition of tempering material, it is too sticky, dries too rapidly and cannot be fired successfully or used by itself. The temper thus gives the clay mixture, that with care, works well at every stage of vessel manufacture. So then tempering materials have been used by Pueblo potters including crushed crystalline rock, crushed amorphous rock, crushed fragments of older broken pots (referred to as “grog”), various sands, powdered volcanic ash, black basalt, organic materials, etc. - all of which have a distinctive diagnostic footprint as to exact location or origin.

Two diagnostic techniques have been developed to detect or pinpoint the village responsible for manufacturing pottery. One method (pioneered by Anna Shepad, 1956, and Helene Warren, 1977) necessitates cutting thin sections of a vessel wall and with microscopic examination carefully identifying the temper in each instance. The other method (developed by Bart Olinger of Los Alamos National Laboratory) uses neutron activation sources. In both cases determinations have been realized in locating the origin of a vessel or shard, with conclusions that have considerable archaeological significance, including historic population locations, shifts, cultural implications, etc., extending as far back as the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings - and some of this is confirmed to be what is known about the various language distributions and usage over time. (Source: The Pottery of Santa Ana Pueblo, Harlow, Francis, and others, 2005). N Onnen

Growing Opals

What do Opal Phytoliths, Plant Opals, and Biogenic Opals (AKA Silica Phytoliths and Silica Cells) have in common? Answer - They are names given to Phytoliths which are in fact a group of plant fossils of archaeological and palaeoecological interest. Simply said "they are particles of hydrated silica formed in living plants that are liberated from plants after they die and decay." They are produced in large numbers by many types of higher plants and exhibit durability in soils and sediments over very long periods of time. Although little known or understood, they in fact were recognized by European scientists since the middle nineteenth century. It was not until the late 1970's that American archaeobotanists began to work with phytoliths as research markers. To that end they are now being seen as reliable fossil indicators of past plant life and climate in ancient contexts from archaeological sites to lakes. This research now includes the multidisciplinary scope of most fields of science, archaeologists, paleoecologist, ecologists, botanists, geneticists, geologists, molecular biologists, plant breeders and soil scientists. In short, phytoliths function as proxy indicators of the past and includes

research on starch grains and charcoal particles as high-growth areas in archaeology and paleoecology. This later interest includes retrieving data from artifactual and human remains, such as stone tools, pottery (see the above article on “Prehistoric Rockhounds”), bones and teeth.

To that end, considering that plants collect elements from soils and sediments and store what becomes fossil opal, I wondered if other than living plants could do the same. It turns out that scientists working in Yellowstone Lake, which has been entirely isolated for over 14,000 years, have discovered fossil evolved diatoms (*Stephanodiscus yellowstonensis*) in the chalky lake mud and which are found nowhere else in the world. These one-cell wonders evolved between 14,000 to 10,000 years ago and their structure is entirely silica. Given that diatoms collect elements from their environment (in this case the water and sediments of the lake) could they also develop phytoliths? This question passed on to a geologists resulted in an inconclusive answer that “probably not since plants and diatoms are separate entities and the microscopic silica are from different origins.” Seemed like a reasonable question at the time! (Source: Phytoliths: A Comprehensive Guide for Archaeologists and Paleoecologist, Piperno, Dolores. 2006; Virus and the Whale, Exploring Evolution, Diamond, Judy, 2006.) N Onnen

Modeling Minerals and Rocks – Garnet Examples

Mike McClurg sent in the following link on Modeling Minerals and Rocks. Pretty cool graphic representations vs the standard 2D models typically displayed in articles and texts. I did have some trouble with some of the displays with software errors, but there are suggestions to fix these in the link. <https://sketchfab.com/blogs/community/lina-jakaite-creating-geological-visualizations-to-enhance-science-education/>. D McDaniel

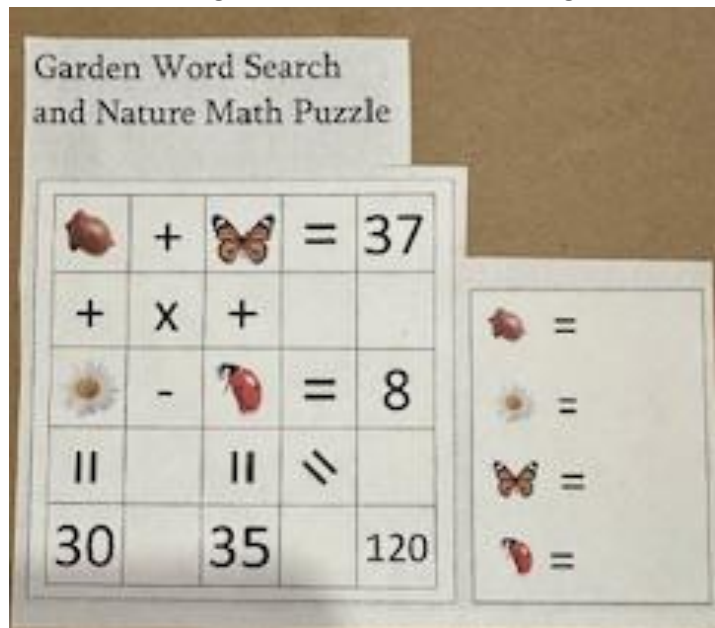
Johnson County (Kansas) Museum

Ripples: Water, Community, and You. (Open, Feb. 8, 2025 - Jan. 10, 2026 Mondays - Sat. 9am-4:30pm). Water is the lifeblood of human civilization, shaping our history, economy, and environment. “Ripples” explores how water has connected us all—past, present, and future. From ancient inland seas to today’s interconnected watersheds, humans have always relied on water for survival, trade, agriculture, recreation, and more. But as we face increasing challenges like historic droughts, floods, and pollution, our relationship with water has never been more complex.

Visitors to “Ripples” will dive into Johnson County’s award-winning modern water management, the ways humans have both controlled and been shaped by water, and the evolving mindset that views water and humans as interdependent. The exhibit showcases the region’s history through interactive displays, artifacts, and stories that illustrate the ripples left by past decisions and the ones we continue to create today. N Onnen

From the Thistle (Newsletter from the Haskell Greenhouse News)

The first person to send to me (onnenne@kc.rr.com) before the April 3 club meeting, the correct answer to this puzzle will get their choice of a select mineral specimen. The second person with the correct answer will then get their choice of a remaining select mineral specimen. N Onnen



PrairieFire Science Happy Hour

From PrairieFire -- Join us for Science Happy Hour with a *TWIST* as we watch the breathtaking documentary premiere of **Cresta Alta!** A journey to Alaska, Iceland, Chile and Peru to document glaciological research expeditions and sustainability. The Cresta Alta Film Tour is engaging audiences throughout the US with arts councils, colleges, high schools and museums at events produced by [The Risan Project](#). The 2025 tour features [Risan Media's](#) expedition-based climate change documentary film titled, [Cresta Alta](#), that chronicles a journey to Alaska, Iceland, Chile and Peru to document glaciological research expeditions and sustainability. The screenings are followed by a discussion/Q&A with producer and director, Todd Anders Johnson.

Wednesday, April 16th

Doors open at 5:30 PM for Happy Hour drinks

Talk begins at 6PM

Tickets are FREE for membership and \$10 for non-members 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)

Apr 3 – OGMS Club Meeting - Program: “The Western Stemmed Tradition and the Initial Peopling of the Americas: Recent Discoveries in the Far West” by Dr. Justin A. Holcomb, KGS

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

Apr 13,14 – Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show Bentonville, AR
<https://www.facebook.com/NWAGMS/posts/pfbid02FpM2gYLXKGTNPLYHUu6RfBjLN3dNgRDhuyWRDgjWCFyxRaewZKUKwijmQFFY6UbdI>

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

May 1 – OGMS Club Meeting - Program” “Illustrated Timeline of the Earth” by OGMS member Rebecca Francis.

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

May 9 – 11 – National Fossil Exposition XLVI. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois ((admission free)

Jun 7 – OGMS Picnic - Kill Creek Park

Jun 7,8 – Show Me Gold Prospectors Gold and Treasure Show. MO State Fairgrounds; Mathewson Exhibition Center 2503 16th St., Sedalia, MO 65301 (Admission \$10/children > 12 free)

Jun 14 – Annual Consignment Auction. The Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club. Lake Zorinsky Park. 9am-2pm <https://nerockgem.org/index.html>

Jun 20 – 22 – 24th Annual Mineral and Fossil Show. Eldon Community Center. 309 E. 2nd St., Eldon, MO (Admission \$2/ \$5 per family/ children > 12 free) ormc2025show@gmail.com (Theme - Galena).

Jun 20, 21 – Summer Gem Festival. Beer Family Farm, 18701 Ashland Road, Ashland, NE. 68003. (Admission \$3/children > 15 free); Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club.

Jul 12, 13 – Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society Rock, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Tulsa, OK. Exchange Center at Expo Square, 4145 E. 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74114. (Admission \$7 (\$10 two-day pass)/children > 12 free)

Aug 13 – 17 – The Milwaukee Show. The Baird Center, www.MILWAUKEE.SHOW

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

Sep 19 -21 – Kirkwood (MO) Show. Kirkwood Community Center, 111S. Geyer Rd., Kirkwood, MO 63122 (Admission \$4/free parking) RocksRuleStl.com and FB Rocks Rule!

Oct 3 – 5 – Albuquerque Fall Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Alb., NM. Expo New Mexico Creative Arts Building (Admission - Free)

Oct 18, 19 – Des Moines 2025 Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show. Iowa State Fairgrounds. 30th St. & Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa. (Admission \$6/Children > 12 free) www.DMLapidary.org

Oct 24 – 26 – Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society 2025 Annual Mineral and Gem Show Modern Living Building; OKC State Fair Park, 608 Kiamichi Place, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 (Admission \$8/children >12 free) orgs-minerals.org

Nov 1 – 70th Annual Omaha Gem Jewelry and Mineral Show. Omaha, NE. Liberty First Credit Union Arena. 7300 Q St., Ralston, NE