



ROCK SOLID

MARCH 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: 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:

March 7-9, 2025 Gem and Mineral Show

With spring almost upon us, just a reminder that we (OGMS) DO NOT HAVE A MARCH CLUB MEETING, but all are encouraged to assist and attend the March 7-9, 2025 63rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center (11730 NW Ambassador, Drive, Kansas City, MO).

Quick Show notes - We need volunteers, etc. for the show as follows-

Wed., March 5 table set up

Ticketing, (all 3 days of the show)

Association Booth sales (all 3 days of the show)

Club display cases. We desire have about 2-4 additional cases to be placed and displayed. (I have spare cases to lend. Just contact me)

Silent and live auction item(s) donations (Sales go to the Association scholarship fund)

Hospitality room volunteers and food/drink items donations

Silent and live auction, and Association booth rock, mineral, fossil items donations

If you have interest and time to volunteer for any of the activities, and any food, rocks, specimens, and fossil items to donate, please contact me ASAP and I will put you in touch with the appropriate person. (Norman Onnen; 816 645 1333; onnenne@kc.rr.com)

Association News

As a reminder (and for our newer club members who have yet to be involved) The Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City (of which our Olathe Gem and Mineral Society is an integral part) organizes and produces the annual March Gem & Mineral Show. As such the "Association" is made up of the following seven organizations:

Bead Society of Greater Kansas City

Independence Gem & Mineral Society (IGAMS)

Kansas & Missouri Paleontological Society (KMPS)

Olathe Gem & Mineral Society (OGMS)

Pony Express Prospectors

Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City

The Sterling Guild of Greater Kansas City

-- And now (as of the Dec. 2024 Association Board meeting) we welcome:

Missouri Valley Gem and Mineral Society

MIA, Wanted, Etc.

We are missing one club display case. Chet McLaughlin loaned out two display cases for the March 2024 Gem and Mineral show. Only one of the cases was returned. (LATE NEWS. The missing case has been found. That being said, following the March show, PLEASE immediately return all borrowed cases!)

Wanted - To temporarily borrow. a Kodak model 650H Carousel slide projector. (Contact N. Onnen)

Wanted - Short articles to be Submitted for the OGMS Monthly Bulletin relating to your gem and mineral experiences.

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

Unexpected Geo Industry

Who would expect that a fossil would initiate a commercial enterprise, especially in the early 1800's. Those familiar with Mary Anning (1799-1847), considered the first significant woman fossil hunter, will recognize her accomplishments in collecting fossils along Lyme Regis (the Cliffs of Dover, Great Britain). She and her friend, Elizabeth Philpot, dissected fossil belemnites and discovered that the dried contents of the ink sack when mixed with water resulted in a dark liquid concoction similar to a painter's sepia. Soon the concoction was being used in artwork and became a boon for tourism as local artists began "painting drawings of prehistoric beasts sketched with "ink" found inside of other prehistoric beasts. (Source: *The Fossil Hunter*; Shelley Emling. St. Martin's Press 2009.) (By the way, A break out presentation at the March 7-9, 2025 Show regarding Mary Anning will occur by Tom Grant of KU).

Belemnites
(Phylum Mollusca,
Class
Cephalopoda,
Subclass



Belemnidea, Family Belemnitidea). Source: "*The Fossil. Hunter; Dinosaurs, Evolution, and the Woman Whose Discoveries Changed the World*"; Shelley Emling. St.Martin's Press, 2011).



The modern squid *Loligo forbesii*. Public domain via [Wikicommons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Loligo_forbesii.jpg).

IKEA Parking Lot Rockhounding

The attached YouTube video may be of interest to some of our members. I know that I am constantly looking at the stones in various parking lots, and sometimes find some very interesting items. Thanks to Mike McClurg for sharing this video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_JFqu1vSP4

Bumblebee Jasper

We (OGMS) recently received an inquiry concerning the risk associated with Bumblebee jasper (also at times referred to as Bumblebee agate) from Indonesia. The material, from a particular volcano on the island of Java, has been tested and determined to contain 12.000 mg of arsenic per kg. (among other but less concerning materials). The inquiry included a question as to the safety of having such a specimen, and a request to seal the item to restrict fibers from being a hazard to the owner. In consulting with several advanced mineralogists, it was established that the specimen (in its current form of already being face polished) did not pose a risk provided that it was not handled and/or worn adjacent to the skin. The real risk, it was agreed, was in the process of grinding and polishing the specimen, particularly if it was done in a closed space and without a mask and/or skin protection. (By the way, this is a very nice 7-pound specimen, and the owner is now considering only to fabricate a clear plastic display box to keep it free from dust.) N Onnen



Moqui Marbles (Stones)

Found at the base of the Navajo Sandstone Formation in Utah and Arizona, the Hopis seek and collect an unusual concretion called Moqui Marbles. To the Hopis, the word "Moqui" means "dearly departed ones", and legend suggests that Hopi ancestors descend from heaven in the evening and bring the marbles to play games. At dawn, the legend continues, the ancestors return to heaven and leave the marbles behind to reassure their relatives that they are happy. The stones are collected and kept in the Hopi homes so as to welcome the spirits of the departed ones.

So goes one version/explanation of these stones, but they, or similar stones, are found throughout the SW region once covered by the Cretaceous inland sea. Reportedly studies of those Hopi stones suggest that mollusks trapped in a great flood of sand about 130 million years ago decomposed and with their internal juices being drawn out, left hollow centers. Water then filtered through the outer shell and fine sand filled the centers while iron deposits formed around the outer shell which was composed of phosphorous and lime. This explanation may be true in some cases, but cannot stand the test overall (primarily since the "recent studies" do not provide specific documentation and are verbal, i.e. The Rock Shed).

More to the point, the stony spheres are concretions, and in this case sandstone balls cemented by a hard shell of iron oxide minerals. Quite often such spheres form around some foreign particle, but not

always, thus the continuing conversation about what they are and how they exist. Now scientist anticipate that similar concretions on Mars may one day reveal signs of ancient life. And, more at home, it is now understood that the stones make up precise age can be determined from the radioactive clock (the iron oxide minerals contain traces of radioactive uranium and thorium which decay and expel helium). As such stones across the vast region range from 20-25 million years ago to about 300.000 years ago (depending upon when the Colorado Plateau started to rise.)

And then there are the Spiritualists who suggest the stones have energy and are male and female - - making them among the only rocks with a gender, and that holding them quietly in each hand will calm the spirit.

("Fossil Legends of the First Americans", Adrienne Mayor; Princeton University Press, 2005; noted the Rock Shed; Keystone, SD. Geological Society of America; Sept. 2014 bulletin).

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

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

Mar 15 – Dean Heflin Estate Auction; American Legion, Maryville, MO 64468 (Agates, rocks/mineral. Specimens, wood carvings, tools, etc.) All proceeds go to a community church.

<https://www.huntauctionsandland.com/rock-artifact-auction>

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/>

Jun 7 – OGMS Picnic - Kill Creek Park

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