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# ROCK SOLID

## MAY 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](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:**

May Day - - May 1, 2025!!!! Our last club meeting prior to summer vacations (and our June 7 picnic). With vacations in the planning stages, it's time to schedule outdoor adventures, rock hunting, and gems and mineral activities with friends and family. So, with that the OGMS is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) which consists of 80 clubs in 12 states (AZ, AR, CO, KS, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, UT, & WY). Each of those clubs have listed their officers (most also listing a field trip committee chair). These represent potential contacts for information about area collecting opportunities, events, and attractions. Members are encouraged to reach out for help in planning trips through the various club areas - - and that resource has been touted at the RMF meetings and in the bulletins/websites. Access to the club listings and contacts may be found on the RMF website <https://www.rmfmts.org/> and/or within our OGMS library as the official 2025 RMF directory has been received and the information is readily available.

Quick note/reminder. Membership renewal time is May of each year. Please renew ASAP so as eliminate the task of our Treasurer trying to complete this task prior to our Sept. meeting. Thank you for those that have already renewed.

The April 26 field trip to Altoona, KS was postponed due to bad weather, and it is anticipated it will be re-scheduled sometime in May. Watch for email announcements.

### **OGMS May 1, 2025 Meeting and Program**

We are eagerly looking forward to the May 1, 2025 club meeting and the presentation by OGMS member Rebecca Francis on "An illustrated Timeline of the Earth".

*From Rebecca-- We'll explore lots of hands-on fossils as we try to understand how everything fits together. Kids are encouraged to attend and there will be special activities for kids! (Ages 8 and up, especially if they've had some teaching about fossils.)*

Rebecca looks forward to filling in the details and we look forward to the presentation. Members might pay attention to the floor tiles as they enter the church for the meeting. There are some very interesting fossils to be stepped on or over.

Some of us have observed Rebecca's high energy presentation (with lots of props, etc.) to school groups and anticipate being "strung along" (The explanation to this will be apparent during the presentation). As an advance, "Astronomers estimate the universe is 14 billion years old. Stars and galaxies formed within the first billion years, producing carbon and other elements for life. Our own solar system took shape 4.5 billion years ago, setting the stage for evolution on Earth. The oldest evidence of life on Earth dates back 3.7 billion years.....etc. " (From Virus and the Whale; Exploring Evolution in Creatures Small and Large, 2006).

### Recap of OGMS April Program

For our April 3, 2025 OGMS program, we were fortunate to have Dr. Justin Holcomb (Kansas Geological Survey, University of Kansas) present “The Western Stemmed Tradition and the Initial Peopling of the Americas; Recent Discoveries in the Far West” to about 40 OGMS members. The follow-on questions clearly indicated our members interest and broad knowledge of the subject. Dr. Holcomb is an Associate of Dr. Rolfe Mandel who spoke to our group in 2023 about his related work in the Yukon. (The photo is of Dr. Holcomb explaining to OGMS member Larry Wells the depth of the research for early man in the Americas).

For further reading, Dr. Holcomb suggested First Peoples in a New World by David J. Meltzer, Strangers in a New Land by J. M. Adovasio with David Pedler, and Origin by Dr. Jennifer Raff. Strangers in a New Land is currently on sale at Half Priced Books (and is actually 1/2-priced). I have added it to my library, along with Origin. We are currently working to schedule Dr. Raff (who is also a KU professor) to present at a future OGMS meeting. Her 2022 book was almost immediately placed on the New York Times top 10 list. The “Strangers in a New Land” book includes descriptions of Paisley Five Mile Point Caves, Oregon (Dr. Holcomb) and Bluefish Caves, Yukon, Canada (Dr. Mandel).



### Critical Minerals in Kansas (and probably MO also).

Some will recall the presentation to our OGMS club in Sept. 2021 by Dr. Franek Hasiuk (Kansas Geological Survey) concerning the search for critical minerals in Kansas. While there was measured doubt that such minerals might be found here, a recent publication identifies such sources may be lead-zinc tailing piles, coal-fired power plants, refineries and computer [electronic recycling centers. In salt mines (such as at Hutchison, KS) may be found traces of lithium and potash). The list of minerals designated as highly critical are cobalt, dysprosium, gallium, germanium, graphite, iridium, manganese, neodymium, nickel, palladium and praseodymium. Other than the listed potential Kansas sources, it is recognized most minerals of interest are at least 600 feet below the surface (SE KS and more than 8,000 feet below the surface in SW KS. (Dr. Hasiuk is now at Sandia National Labs in Alb., NM).

### FIELD TRIPS:

Please Note: The April field trip to Altoona, KS was postponed due to bad weather, and it is anticipated it will be re-scheduled sometime in May. Watch for email announcements.

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**

### **There's Gold in the Air**

How would you like to be able to get 80 grams of gold a day out of the atmosphere? Well, if you head to Antarctica, you can observe Mt. Erebus, an active volcano which spews out this amount of gold every day. Go to the following link to read up on this phenomenon. <https://explorersweb.com/mount-erebus-spews-solid-gold-research/>

### **Amethyst Benefits**

In addition to helping a drinker ward off intoxication, myth has it that an amethyst pendant suspended from a dog hair cord around the neck is an antidote for snakebite. With owning specimens of amethyst, and some of us are not willing to forego an occasional drink, does anyone have a dog hair cord available for the next field trip? Note that there is no mention that this is an antidote for venom in case a venomous snakebite is not repelled. ("The Mineral Kingdom", Desautels, Paul E.; 1968.) N Onnen

### **Record Amber Find, and Some History**

In 2022 the Provincial Museum of Buzau (Romania) became the home of a national treasure - -A 7.7-pound amber (aka Ruminant) nugget which had been used as a door stop by a farm woman who passed away in 1991. It is valued at \$1.1m and is reportedly one the largest amber nuggets ever found. It was confirmed as amber and appraised by experts at the Museum of History in Krakow, Poland. (Science Alert, 4/4/25).

Historically amber hides a sinister past. In the 13th century the military crusading Teutonic Knights seized and Christianized Prussia. This also included the mining, fishing for, and possession of amber. Punishments involved fines, flogging and death by hanging and were handed out for thefts of as little as less than 2 ounces of the material. Later area farmers were expected (often required) to search for, collect and hand over to authorities any amber without compensation. Most recently, in Ukraine in 2015, 90% of the amber was obtained without permission and police confiscated almost 2.5 tons of the material suggesting that of every 10 tons of the material hitting the market only 1,323 pounds will have been acquired legally. ("Amber; from Antiquity to Eternity"; Rachel King, 2022). N Onnen

### **Climate (and Climate Change Concern) to an Inuit.**

First, what is an Inuit? From Google "Alaska Natives increasingly prefer to be known by the names they use in their own languages, such as Inupiaq or Yupik. Inuit is now the current term in Alaska and across the artic, and Eskimo is fading from use.

The why climate change, and awareness, is so important to the Inuit is little understood or even thought of. In fact, the Inuit actively, and traditionally, watch the sky, moons and solar system to survive. "The full moon is both a warning and a gauge of when it is good timing to go to (or leave) the ice flow edge." That makes more sense when it is understood that the Inuit (recognizing that the ice flows break off)

- 1) build their igloos and camps on the flows in winter (since the radiant heat of the water makes that much of a difference over building on land),
- 2) seal hunt at the flow edges
- 3) The related timing strictly necessitates the curing/caching of fish and caribou.

Of immediate concern is that the extent and/or edge of the ice flow cannot be seen (and the sea ice is in fact more important to survival than is land at specific times). When it breaks off and floats away (when not anticipated), can be and so often is a life-or-death situation. Also, "climate change has real and serious implications for Inuit life because much of the traditional knowledge is based on the times of seasons and not on traditionally on temperatures. .... One does "this" at "this time" of the year rather than when the temperature gets "like this" .... Because caching caribou is done in the fall after the flies stop flying; not only to prevent maggots but because the meat shouldn't be too fermented or for that matter too fresh. There are many grades from mild to green and now with temperature change and warmer temperatures, much meat is going to waste because of over fermentation and botulism ... and fisher especially susceptible since fish rot easily." The Inuit describing this (Jose A. Kusugak, President's, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami) closes by "I'd better change the subject before I get too hungry."

Anyway, climate change is more of an immediate problem to some than many recognize. ("The Earth is Faster Now" Igor Krupnik, 2010.) N Onnen

#### **From KU**

KU awarded NSF grant for workshop on best practices for sharing paleontology data

Director of the Paleontological Institute Bruce Lieberman and Digital Resources Manager of the Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology Natalia López Carranza are leading an NSF-funded workshop that explores innovative approaches to gathering and sharing paleontological data. Their goal is to ensure that valuable data is accessible and effectively utilized by both researchers and the public. N Onnen

#### **March 2025 Rock Solid Bulletin "Nature Math Puzzle"**

And the winners of the "Nature Math Puzzle" in. last month's Rock Solid bulletin are:

Mike McClurg (first responder with the correct answer)

Dana Cline (second responder)

(Total number getting the correct answer = 2)

And the answers were - -

Acorn	12
Butterfly	25
Daisy	18
Ladybug	10

## **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))

**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)

**May 16, 17** – Tri State Gem and Mineral Society Annual Spring Rock Show, Joplin, MO  
<https://www.facebook.com/joplinmuseum/>

**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](mailto: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)

**Jul 26** – Cabs and Coffee -- Buy, Sell, Trade event by ALLOY – A Metalsmithing Community, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Blip Coffee Roasters 1301 Woodswether Rd, Kansas City, MO  
<https://www.alloymetalsmithing.com/events/cabs-and-coffee-july2025>

**Aug 13 – 17** – The Milwaukee Show. The Baird Center, [www.MILWAUKEE.SHOW](http://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](http://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](http://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](https://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