



ROCK SOLID

OCTOBER 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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Programs: Norman 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:

What a great turn out at our Sept. 4 summer's end club meeting. With nearly 50 members, visitors and guests attending it was evident that we are ready to continue rockhounding, mineral, fossil, etc. activities with our like-minded individuals. This is not to diminish Mark Sherwood, our guest speaker's influence on conveying information on quartz and mineral identification to us. Our programs continue to be a significant element in our networking and meeting(s) interest.

As a reminder to members, and in particular to interested visitors and guests, we meet on the first Thursday evening of each month, Sept. through May (our operating year is May to May), at Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS. Meeting times are from 6PM to 8:45PM. Please check our website for specific information in case of modifications. Immediate known exceptions are that we will not meet in Dec. 2025, and we WILL meet on the SECOND Thursday of Jan. 2026.

Our next club meeting (Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025) will feature a presentation by OGMS members Kelly Conner and Louise Partain of "Alloy, A Metalsmithing Community". Kelly's presentation, "Get an inside look at Alloy Metalsmithing - our studio, our services, and our community. Workshops to memberships, we support jewelry makers and metalsmiths at every stage". Kelly and Louise have set up their display and have given popular hands-on Special Exhibits/presentations at the last two March KC Gem and Mineral Shows. We look forward to a closer look of their activities.

Also, at the Oct. 2 meeting (and as a follow on to the Mark Sherwood Sept. meeting about quartz), we are soliciting members to bring in examples of the various species and/or habits of quartz. It is always of interest to learn and see actual examples of such specimens. Already arranged for are examples of smoky quartz (real and treated), a left-handed quartz crystal, a window hopped crystal, a Cipo (or Muzo) habit, scepter habits, tessin habit, etc. Wanting also to see some faden, inverse scepter, Japan Law, amethyst, citrine, Herkimer, gwindel, needle, jackstraw, etc. specimens.

As in the past, we will have our raffle before the actual meeting (from 6PM to about 7PM) and have light refreshments throughout the meeting.

To accommodate small school age children, (some who need to leave early) we have developed special grab bags and will gather the children before the full meeting for a quick rock, mineral or fossil talk at their interest level.

Also, at this next meeting, we will test a limited silent auction of a few items which have over time been donated to the club, for the benefit the club. (Proceeds to speakers, operating expenses, etc.).

Please see below, notes on dates for upcoming meetings, lists needed for sales tables, volunteer opportunities, our holiday party, etc.

Welcome back everyone. Please let us know of your interests, trips, etc. (hopefully by contributing such information in our Bulletin for all to share).

Upcoming Club Meetings

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025. Program: "Alloy, A Metalsmithing Community" by OGMS members Kelly Conner and Louise Partain. (See information above in President's Message).

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025. Program: "Antique Jewelry" by OGMS member Tom Tivol. (NOTE: THIS IS A NOV. MEETING - - SOMETHING WE HAVE NOT HAD IN THE PAST DUE TO HOLIDAY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS).

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025 - OGMS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. (You may signup via the OGMS Email to be sent to all members, or via the sign-up sheets that will be available at the Oct. 2 and Nov. 6 club meetings).

Dec. 2025 - NO MEETING

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026 - Program: "Origin" by Dr. Jennifer Anne Raff, Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Kansas. Dr. Raff is the author of Origin. (NOTE: THIS MEETING IS THE SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AS JAN. 1, 2026 IS A HOLIDAY).

Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026 - Program: "Turquoise and Native American Jewelry" by OGMS member Lydia Cline.

Sept. OGMS MEETING and Everything About Quartz - - and now Bridgmanite!!!

At our Sept. 4, 2025 club meeting, we were challenged (and enlightened) by Mark Sherwood's presentation on quartz. In less than 2 hours Mark let us know how very complex, varied, and COMMON quartz is. A frequent speaker to our club, we thank Mark once more for his insight and attempts to educate us. Speaking of how common quartz is, it has been published and generally agreed, that quartz is the second most common mineral, following only feldspar. But that is not true. Feldspar is actually number 2 and quartz is number 3. Coming in at number one is Bridgmanite, an unknown mineral to almost everyone. Bridgmanite is a silicate perovskite (being the magnesium end-member) and is not stable at the earth's surface but exists primarily in the lower Earth's mantle from about 420 to 1,680 miles deep. The existence of this mineral had been suggested in 1962, synthesized



experimentally by 1975, and discovered in the heavily shocked Tenham meteorite in 2014.

So, being the most common mineral on earth, what can it be used for? The AI answer is that it has no direct commercial use because it exists only under extreme heat and pressure, and its key role is as the controlling component of the physical and chemical properties of the lower mantle.

"VOLCANOS, EARTHQUAKES, AND TSUNAMIS.... OH MY!" (The Earth Shook, The Ocean Answered).

This, the title(s) of a presentation by renowned geologist Dr. Allen Macfarlane to be held at the (MAP) Museum at Prairiefire (5801 W. 135th St., Overland Park, KS) Wed., Oct. 8, 2025. (5:30PM for Happy

hour drinks; presentation begins at 6PM). (Tickets free for MAP membership, and \$10 for non-members).

This presentation is so very timely in that on July 29, 2025 an 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck an area of the seafloor off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula and instigated tsunami warnings throughout the Pacific Ocean - reaching as far as Santiago, Chile. This earthquake has the distinction of being the largest ever recorded in human history.

Dr. Macfarlane spent 34 years at the Kansas Geological Survey and has semi-retired to teaching.

(P.S. Also presently, there is a MAP display of a massive 5.5 feet long Tylosaurus skull. An apex predator bigger than a T-rex, this marine hunter ruled the Western interior Seaway - the ancient ocean that once covered Kansas more than 70 million years ago.)

FIELD TRIPS:

Our Sept. 27 field trip was to the road cut(s) of 68 and 69 highways at Louisburg, KS. A perfect field collecting day with mild temperatures, partly cloudy skies, no wind, and dry conditions underfoot was the experience (unlike several cancellations due to weather earlier in the year.) Collected were dolomite crystals, crinoids, brachiopods, sponges and at least one trilobite.

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

No SIGNS!!!

Have you ever taken a rock collecting road trip where signs are in limited supply? Well, that's our story for 2025.

On the first of June, Alison Betts and I loaded up a rental mini-van and headed to Utah. The primary goal was to collect flat slate, limestone, or sandstone for Alison's paintings of desert scenes on stone. I was interested in collecting geodes at Dugway. Our first stop was in Thornton, CO where we had reservations for Hotel Park Inn by Radisson. Following GPS instructions, we found ourselves at the top of a dead-end street. The name on the building was Motel 6. Surprise! Booking never even emailed me,



and trust me folks, nothing about the facility said Radisson to us. Second “shock” of the day, we hadn’t completed the registration process and the skies opened up with a downpour, thunder included. We left everything in the car and crept against the side of the building to our room. The best decision was a little cat nap until it blew over and we could grab bags and head to dinner.

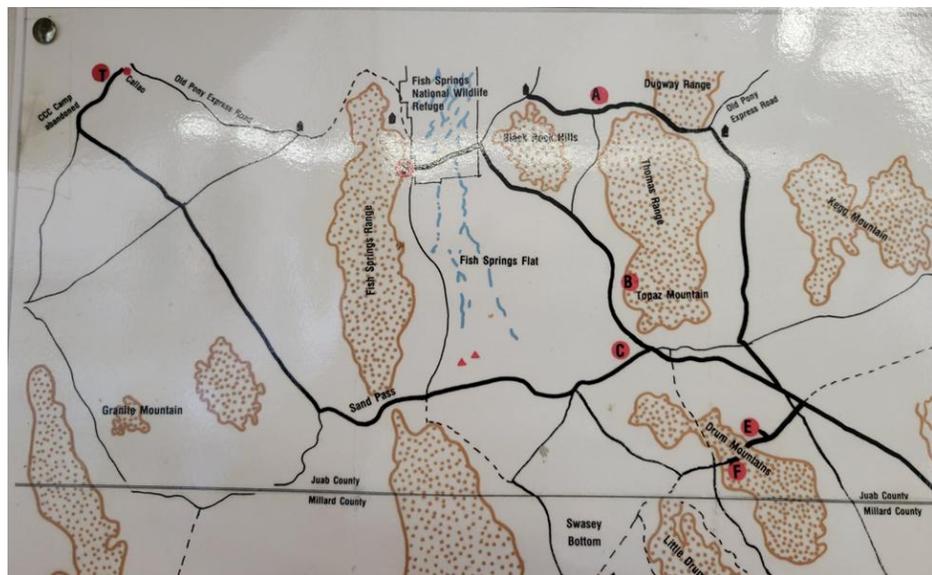
The second day’s drive to Delta, UT was uneventful with regards to signs but the experience of fabulous scenery filled the soul. I know Colorado has its many fans, but Utah has the breathtaking views so typical of the plateaus, mesas, and mountains of the Southwest; colors ever changing as clouds race across skies. I’d experienced the drive before, and gave Alison the opportunity to shutterbug with her phone.

The next day we set out driving west on US 50 to a place I was sure had the stones for Alison. The old sign that use to advertise “U-Dig Fossils” was gone! It had a trilobite painted on it. I continued driving, but after another 20 minutes decided we had missed the road. A U-turn and more pavement under the tires we found a small sign that read “Dig Fossils”. At least the gravel road was well maintained, not too much washboard, and we came to the Trilobite Mine that I remembered.

At first there was no one in sight! A shack with equipment stood wide open, trilobites on the counter, a cell phone on a desk, tools, but no one. We wandered around a minute calling out. Just when we were about to leave a chap comes hiking out of the mine area. We explained who we were and what we wanted to find, flat rocks with dendrites in them. He hauled a bucket of miscellaneous rocks out of a back room. In the very bottom was the right sample! Yea! For a minute he tried giving us directions, then said, “follow me in my truck, and I’ll take you there.”

Trust me, if I had tried to follow verbal directions we would have never found the site. Some of you have collected in the desert. You know how there are trails all over the place! And, because it doesn’t rain often, they stay forever, and forever. Confusing, isn’t it?

Well, Brandon took us to a perfect locality. We stomped around and collected. Got to let the snakes know we were there, you know. Sometime after lunch we sat down, wrapped our finds in newspaper, and packed three milk crates of material plus several pieces too large for the crates. Getting back to Delta, we were almost driving



on fumes, but took time to stop at the local rock shop. I prepared for this by bringing a flat of Mozarkite, with a window polished on one side to show the colors. Yep, traded for some good stuff for GeoPulls. Also, took a picture of a map of the locality of Dugway Geode Beds for our next day's trip.

We felt all empowered with map, full tank of gas, water, and lunch the next day as we headed in the direction of Topaz Mountain. I'd collected in West Cove as recent as 2013 so the road out of Delta felt familiar. So, how could we "go wrong"? We had the map on my phone! Well, sure enough we found part of the Pony Express route, but the sign for rockhounding was gone.



I can't take credit for special driving skills, but after a longer than necessary drive we found one of the Dugway Geode sites. We had the spot all to ourselves except for a cute little desert chipmunk who visited us at lunch time. One makes shade by leaving the tailgate up. We were fortunate with the weather. Daytime temps were a comfortable low 70s, perfect for the high desert in June. As you can see from the map, the Old Pony Express Trail wanders in these parts. We passed this marker and one of the stops while trying to find the correct route back to Delta. Still no signs! To her credit, Alison was driving and applying a lot of patience to the situation. Out of the blue she notices a truck coming up in the rearview mirror. She stops, waves, and he pulled along her side. When we told him we were lost he said he was on his way to Salt Lake City (OH, NO) but we could follow him and he would take us to US 6, which would return us to

Delta. Thank goodness for a full tank of gas and a kind young man who worked for the BLM.

The rest of our trip was uneventful except for the awesome countryside we drove through. Barbara Crompton

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Native American Art

Those who attended the March 2025 Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show will have been able to see the special exhibit of jewelry, pottery and basketry actually designed and made by Haskell Native American

Indian students from about the 1970's and 1980's. More of these are scheduled to be displayed at the 2027 Gem and Mineral Show.

In the meantime, interested individuals will be able to see, and purchase if desired, handmade items by Native American Indian artists from across the country at the Haskell Indian Art Market to be held on the Lawrence Haskell campus Oct. 4 (10am-6PM) and Oct. 5 (10AM-5PM). (Haskell PowWow Grounds; 2535 West Perimeter Road, Lawrence, KS).

Formerly an art sales event with the city of Lawrence, this current show is entirely a Haskell organized event and projected to be annual occasion. N Onnen

Arkansas Diamond

From the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas comes word that a family member from Cookson, OK discovered a 2.79-carat brown diamond recently and is the third largest diamond registered at the park this year. The stone is oddly shaped (resembling a football) and appears to be highly included - - but still a prize to the lucky visitor. N. Onnen



BLUE FOREST PETRIFIED WOOD

A recent question about Blue Forest petrified wood necessitates the following definition - *Blue Forest petrified wood is a specific type of petrified wood found in the Eden Valley of Sweetwater County, Wyoming, characterized by a unique, light blue chalcedony and agate coating formed from algae and minerals during the Eocene Epoch, about 50 million years ago. The coating developed on trees in the shallow parts of the ancient Lake Gosiute, creating stunning replicas of the original wood, sometimes preserving details like insect borings, and is highly prized for its beautiful blue color.*



The fossil algae is as interesting as the wood. Separate but nearby (to the east) is found Eden Valley petrified wood, which lacking the color and algae, is still very collectable in that some contains opal and polishes well. Interested individuals would be well advised to attend the annual gem and mineral show held at Big Piney, WY since they have a free guided field trip to the sites. And, Big Piney is the home to J. L. Gray Rock Shop, a most remarkable complete G&M considering the community small size. Jim Gray is the current President of the Rock Mountain Federation of Mineralogical societies (of which OGMS is a member). And, if nothing else, Big Piney is on the way to Jackson Hole and Yellowstone National Park. (N. Onnen specimens and photo).

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. 2025, visit [ROCKNGEM.COM](https://www.rockngem.com))

Oct 2 – OGMS Club Meeting

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

Oct 11, 12 – Topeka Gem and Mineral Society 68th Annual Show; 17th and Topeka, Topeka, KS
<https://www.topekagms.org/>

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

Oct 31 – Nov 2 – KC Gem and Mineral show, KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador Dr., Kansas City, MO

Nov 1, 2 – 70th Annual Omaha Gem Jewelry and Mineral Show. Omaha, NE. Liberty First Credit Union Arena. 7300 Q St., Ralston, NE <https://nerockgem.org/annual-gem-and-mineral-show>

Nov 6 – OGMS Club Meeting

Nov 20 – OGMS Holiday Party