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# ROCK SOLID

## SEPTEMBER 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: 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:**

### **WELCOME BACK**

OGMS members, guests and visitors!!! You've been missed and hopefully you have been able to take vacations, collect a few rocks and accomplish family related functions we always look forward to. While our club operating year runs from May-to-May, the summer months to some might appear that we've been inactive club-wise (no scheduled monthly meetings, Bulletin postings, etc.). Still, we normally are quite busy planning and scheduling upcoming activities, participating in field trips, and individually trying to accomplish all functions and activities that have been paused over the winter and spring.

To that end, Mother Nature this year has been somewhat uncooperative. From spells of heavy rain (and some flooding making rivers/sandbars and some sites inaccessible for long spells) to periods of very high temperatures, scheduling and participating in field trips has been a challenge. The trip to Altona was postponed twice, and then when we were able to go there, the heat and humidity held down our numbers and time to be there. A combined clubs field participate trip to Copper Valley south of St. Louis was affected by excessive heat, however reports are that the "finds" on the tailings were such that individuals wish to participate there again. Our long-scheduled picnic, while successful, was at the very moment threatened by the weather, and as such, last-minute individual cancellations reduced participant numbers from making the uncertain drive. Each of us had our own challenges this year.

Now, going forward, we are eagerly ready to focus on rockhounding, silversmithing, shop work, etc. Many are about to head to the Denver show, and those of us unable to go there look forward to the Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 KC gem and mineral show. And, it's not too early to plan and organize for our own March 13-15, 2026 G&M show. Our club fall meetings are set for Sept. 4 (the program will be "Quartz" by Mark Sherwood), Oct. 2 (the program will be "Antique Jewelry by Tom Tivol), and this year (because the Nov. show happens before the first Thursday of the month) we will have a club meeting on Nov. 6 (the program yet to be announced). And then we will once more have our holiday party (either Nov. 13 or Nov. 20 - - date yet to be coordinated with the church).

So welcome back. We eagerly want to see each of you and hear of all your recent activities.

### **Quartz**

As mentioned, our September 4th program will be all about quartz, presented by Mark Sherwood. Mark has presented to our club several times, mostly concerning specimen(s) identification and is stationed at the March gem and mineral shows with his technical equipment helping visitors ID their "mystery stones".

"People who are interested in the world around them will find that one of the most interesting subjects to study is the mineral species quartz. There are so many different aspects of the study of quartz and its relatives that everyone can find areas of interest to be delved into deeper. Quartz is such a large component of the earth's crust and so important technologically that we should all have basic knowledge of it. Quartz is better able than other species to introduce us to the secrets of crystal growth." "Much of what we know of crystal structure and mineralogy has come through the study of quartz". (Quartz: An Introduction to Crystalline Quartz. Decoding the messages from inside the earth.

Harold Dibble, 2002). "Quartz occurs in almost all types of rocks and is abundant in Earth's crust, second only to feldspar." (Google)

### Quartz and Opal

What do quartz and opal have in common? (First correct answer to me at [onnenne@kc.rr.com](mailto:onnenne@kc.rr.com) wins a quartz crystal at our Sept. 4, 2025 club meeting)

### Quartz and Quartzite

"Indian artifact collectors tend to use the terms "quartz" and "quartzite" interchangeable, and other collectors know what that means: technically quartz is silicon dioxide, and one of the more common minerals." And "Quartzite is the result of much change over great time. It began as grains of sand (almost pure silica) and gradually compressed into sandstone. The sandstone, in its own time, became quartzite, which is basically interlocking bits of quartz. Prehistoric Indians liked quartzite because it was both very durable and attractive. The durability aspect meant it could be chipped into points or blades or worked into adzes or Celts." (Lar Hothem, [Indian Artifacts](#))

### Rebecca Ann Francis Passing

We are deeply saddened to let our friends and OGMS members know of the very sudden and recent passing of Rebecca Francis. As all who knew her recognized, Rebecca was a most vibrant, enthusiastic, creative and friend to all people, and is sorely missed. A memorial service is to be held at the Olathe Community Center on Sunday, Sept 7, 2025 from 1-3 PM. More details will be forthcoming. Rebecca will be most recently remembered by her May 2025 presentation to our club concerning geologic time. I have participated and witnessed her presenting this to several school groups, and each time the presentation improved and was always entertaining. Following her May presentation, she mischievously indicated that she had never read a book on this topic (a clear revelation of her creative knowledge, interest and enthusiasm - a wonderful legacy).



*From the Johnson County Obituaries Post -  
Rebecca Ann Francis, Nov. 4, 2054 - Aug. 20, 2025*

*Rebecca Ann Francis, age 70, passed away on Wed., Aug. 20, 2025. Ms. Francis was born on Nov. 4, 1954 to Terry Francis and Betty Smith.*

*She received her Bachelor of Arts in Children's Education from Ottawa University and went on to earn her teaching license. After college she joined the Peace Corps receiving an assignment in Sierra Leone, West Africa where she met her eventual husband Kemoh. They had one son Josiah.*

*Rebecca had many talents and roles. She was an entrepreneur, jeweler, educator, volunteer and mentor over her many decades of work. She valued culture, community, kindness, and connection.*

*She was preceded in death by her parents, Terry and Betty, and her brother Tim. She is survived by her son Josiah, grandchildren Eli, CJ, and Reese, siblings Jenny and Jon, numerous nieces, nephews, and many cherished friends.*

*The family would like to express their gratitude for the outpouring of well wished and support.*

*A Celebration of Life will be held at the Olathe Community Center (1205 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS) on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the main floor; come at your convenience.*

*Signage will direct you to the room. Please consider making a donation to Operation Wildlife in Rebecca's name instead of flowers.*

### **Dr. Lario Vincent Yerino, Jr. Passing**

We are very saddened to learn of the passing of OGMS member Lario Yerino on Feb. 20, 2025. Dr. Yerino was only briefly an OGMS member, and with his wife Phyllis, attended two or three of our meetings before his passing. Born on Dec. 18, 1954, he was the son of Mario, Sr. and Louise Yerino, and is survived by his wife Phyllis, two sons (Christopher (Kimnerly) and Gregory (Laura)), five grandchildren, a brother and three sisters. Dr. Yerino "had a deep love of life and a childlike curiosity to explore and experiment with his surroundings, all the while enjoying nature, hiking, camping, birding, spelunking, star gazing and ROCKHOUNDING." With a PhD from Texas A&M University, he began his career in organic chemistry and taught chemistry and physics at Oak Park, Liberty and Fort Osage where he developed and led nationally ranked high school teams competing in Science Olympiad and science Knowledge Bowl. He also participated in NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). He built a 120-pound homemade 20" Dobsonian telescope which won 1st place at the Rocky Mountain Star Stare 2019 conference, constructed several high-power rockets requiring airspace clearance for launching and was a member of the Astronomical Society.



We very much wish he had become an OGMS member much sooner and that we could have appreciated his knowledge and energy.

### **Membership Dues**

Our club collects membership dues in May of each year, and memberships expire if they are unpaid following our Sept. club meeting. Our club, as a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, for insurance coverage, is required to submit a report (numbers) and a fee to maintain our annual coverage. As such we spend considerable time following the May meetings

contacting individuals whose membership is about to lapse. PLEASE HELP OUR TREASURER, CONFIRM YOUR STATUS, AND MAINTAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP ASAP. THANK YOU.

### **IGAMs Silent Auction (Explanation of this Oct. sale)**

The IGAMs club, in Independence, MO, has obtained a G&M collection from the estate of one of their deceased members, this to be used for the benefit of their club. To that end they have decided to offer the material(s) at a silent auction event on Sunday Oct 11, 2025 in the cafeteria at the Center Place Restoration School, 819 W. Waldo, Independence, MO from 10AM - 4PM. (Park and enter on the East side of the building). All area club(s) members are being invited to participate. Offered will be a general collection consisting of minerals, fossils, slabs, rough and some tools. Of particular interest are very good quartz clusters, amethyst, and selenite roses. Auction rounds will last 15-minutes each and rules have been established (i.e. minimum stated bids or raises, and no blocking or hiding bid sheets from other bidders, etc.) At the end of each 15-minute session, each successful bidder is to collect their item and turn the sheet into the Treasurer (a tab may be started if multiple successful bids are made). It is unknown if cards will be accepted. Questions/comments to Bruce Stinemetz, 816 506 8325 or email [brucestinemetz@att.net](mailto:brucestinemetz@att.net)

### **RAFFLE, RAFFLE, RAFFLE:**

We need items for the club raffle. As many of you know, the monies received from the raffle are used to purchase the refreshments for our club meetings. We are very low on items for the raffle and need donations from our club members to increase the low inventory. PLEASE bring in items for the raffle so we can continue this club tradition.

### **FIELD TRIPS:**

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**

#### **"Americans" Smithsonian Exhibit Opening**

Sat., Aug. 23, 2025 saw the opening of the Smithsonian traveling exhibit entitled "Americans". The exhibit, a part of the Kaw Valley Farm Tour, was originally to debut on the Haskell Indian Nations University campus in Lawrence, but after federal cuts it was moved to the Watkins Museum in downtown Lawrence. The display reveals "the Americans Indians impact on U.S. culture" and vice versa. As a part of the stay in Lawrence, there will be a companion exhibit called "A Question of Representation" (details later), and on Sept. 12, 2025 there will be a panel discussion entitled "Honoring Truth" (Haskell Auditorium, 7PM).

Following the Lawrence stay, the exhibit will be placed at:

Iowa and Sac & Fox Mission Museum; Highland, KS; Oct. 11, 2025 - Nov. 16, 2025

Mid-America All-Indian Museum; Wichita, KS; Nov. 22, 2025 - Jan. 4, 2026

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Reservation, Mayetta, KS; Jan. 10, 2026 - Feb. 22, 2026

Smoky Hill Museum, Salina, KS; Feb. 28, 2026 - April 5, 2026

Seward County Community College, Liberal, KS; April 11, 2026 - May 24, 2026

Wyandotte County Historical Museum, Bonner Springs, KS; May 30, 2026 - July 5, 2026

Each of the listed sites, working with Humanities Kansas and 10 partners, will create companion events exploring the same themes as "Americans". Interested individuals may keep up with the information and/or modifications to events on the Smithsonian's website at [americanindian.si.edu/americans](http://americanindian.si.edu/americans) and on Humanities Kansas website at [humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/americans](http://humanitieskansas.org/grants-programs/americans). Norm Onnen

### **Scams and AI**

Recently, several OGMS members have received email messages, supposedly from Jeannie Feimster, indicating she was having back surgery and asking for a favor (in one case asking the recipient to obtain a gift card for her). Jeannine has reached out and proclaimed that these messages are not from her and she is well and able. While the messages stopped for a while they resumed as recently as this last Monday. We hope Jeannie is present at our Sept. 4 club meeting, smiling and proving that she is well and not needing the type of help solicited.

Also, with the rapid emergence of AI, many in the rock and gem hobbies will notice a large volume of images being posted (most apparent on Facebook) of mineral specimens which are too good to be true. Careful examination will reveal a person with "six" fingers holding a crystal and several others with crystal masses in which some of the assembled crystals do not ever develop in the same situation. BEWARE if purchasing online. Norm Onnen

### **Gemstone (as well as other G&Ms) disclosures**

From numerous gem and mineral collecting, buying, and selling adventures, as well as assisting in the identification and assumed value of the each, it becomes more and more apparent of the need to have accurate knowledge of, and information, regarding the proper (and in most case the requirement of) the disclosure guidelines. A partial statement regarding the requirements follows:

*"...it is your responsibility at the time of sale [etc.], to provide all information pertaining to the enhancement of a gemstone [etc.]. If a stone is man-made, it is also the seller's responsibility to disclose that fact. This information is required by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)."*

This from the "Enhancement Guide" relating to disclosures by Fire Mountain Gems & Beads, which in reality applies, or should apply, across the industry.

To that end it is relevant to recognize the various considerations to be applied/disclosed when known. As a broad list Fire Mountain lists those consideration that are necessary - - - Assembled (ASBL), Bleaching (B), Coating (C), Dying (D), Filling (F) Gamma/Electron irradiation (G), Heating (H), Infilling (I), Imitation (IMIT), Lasering (L), Manmade(MM), Oiling/Resin (O), Irradiation (R), Stabilization/Bonding (S), synthetic (SYN), Diffusion (U), and Waxing/Oiling (W). SO MANY THINGS TO CONSIDER AND BE AWARE OF!!!!!!! Norm Onnen

### **Mimbres, Fred Harvey and Kansas City - And Deming, NM, Geode Kid, and Baker Ranch Geodes**

Currently on display in the Great Entry of Kansas City's Union Station is a collection of railroad china. (Railroads had their own theme china patterns back in "the day"). One of these was for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad which was designed by Fred Harvey's architect, a woman by the name of Mary Colter. She used as inspiration for the china the pottery of the ancient Mimbres Indians whose black and white pieces are very distinctive. Side notes on this subject:

Fred Harvey had a restaurant in Union Station, and at one time this was the headquarters. Currently his mansion in Leavenworth is being renovated and soon to be opened as a museum.

Also, currently, Union Station is listed as a museum for Fred Harvey. (Inquiry as to its location and status is being sought.)

My grandmother was a Fred Harvey girl in Winslow, AZ.

The mysterious Mimbres were part of the Mogollons and centered around Deming, NM.

Travelers along I-10 passing through Deming, NM should visit the excellent free museum there - home to many Mimbres objects and Geode Kid collection.

Deming is also the home of Rockhound State Park, famous Baker Ranch geodes (the annual "Big Dig" as a function of their annual G&M show in March of each year), and the last home of the "Geode Kid" Paul Colburn, deceased. (However, his partner Christopher Blackwell still lives in and operates the small shack/museum just outside of the state park). Norm 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. 2025, visit [ROCKNGEM.COM](http://ROCKNGEM.COM))

**Aug 23 –Oct 5** – "Americans" Smithsonian exhibit. Watkins Museum of History, Lawrence, KS

**Sep 4** – OGMS Club Meeting – Program: "Quartz" by Mark Sherwood

**Sep 5 - 14** – Denver Gem and Mineral Show; several venues

**Sep 7** – Rebecca Francis "Celebration of Life"; Olathe Community Center; 1PM - 3PM.

**Sep 12** – "Honoring Truth" panel discussion, Haskell Indian Nations University auditorium, 7PM

**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!

**Sep 19 -21** – Mozarkite Society show; Lincoln, MO Sept. 19-21, 2025

**Sep 26 -28** – Joplin, MO Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society show. Joplin History & Mineral Museum, 504 S. Schifferdecker Avenue. Friday and Saturday 9 a.m.-5p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Oct 2** – OGMS Club Meeting - Program: "Antique Jewelry" by Tom Tivol

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

**Oct 11** – IGAMs Silent Auction; Center Place Restoration School, 819 W. Waldo, Independence, MO; 10AM-4PM

**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](http://orgs-minerals.org)

**Oct 31 – Nov 2** – Shows of Integrity G&M show. KCI Expo Center

**Nov 1** – 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 - Program: "Origin" - (Pending) by Jennifer Raff, PhD, author

**Nov ???** – OGMS Holiday Party (TBD)

**Mar 13 – 15 2026** – KC Gem and Mineral Show