



ROCK SOLID

JANUARY 2026 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 2025 – 2026:

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 to the second quarter of the 21st century. How fast the first 25 years have flown by. In 2000 the Bush vs. Gore Presidential challenge was important news, Putin was elected President of Russia (enough said about that), and the Human Genome Project was completed (relevant to our Jan. 8, 2026 OGMS program presentation).

But what about only 100 years ago? What massive changes have occurred since 1925 - - a very short period of time considering human development and impact. In 1925 our parents and grandparents experienced the rise of Mussolini in Italy and Hitler published *Mein Kampf* (on the negative side). Mt. Rushmore was being completed, Hubble discovered and examined the galaxies, the Scopes trial occurred (evolution and science v. Religion), the 1st TV transmission, and the 1st woman Governor (Nellie Tayloe Ross in WY) was elected. Close to home, the country's worst tornado outbreak - the Tri-State tornados in MO/IL/IN occurred killing almost 100. Since then, computers (with wonderful spell check), emails, TikTok, moon walks and space exploration, routine international flights, AI, etc. - all too numerous to mention and/or properly take the time to appreciate.

One thing is constant over our short time frame. The rocks and minerals (and sometimes fossils) prevail! (Although they are clearly subject to gradual change over time and certain circumstances). They have been here for eons and await curious rockhounds to recognize and appreciate them. It is our responsibility to take advantage of this treasure trove, and we eagerly look forward to spring and outdoor activities associated with rocks, minerals, specimens, etc. (procrastinated intents of the past to be ignored once more).

To that end, our January 8th OGMS meeting will feature a long awaited and highly anticipated presentation by Dr. Jennifer Anne Raff, an associate professor of anthropology at KU. A native of Illinois, she moved to Indiana where she completed high school and received her BA (biology and anthropology), MS (anthropology) and PhD (genetics and biological anthropology, all from Indiana University). As a postdoctoral scholar, she continued her research interests at the U. of Utah, Northwestern University, and the U. of Texas. Coming to KU in 2015, she is assistant professor of Biological Anthropology and is conducting research in ancient and contemporary North American populations from the North American Arctic, the Midwest and Texas. Her research involves the analysis of genomes in ancient and contemporary DNA, and she has focused on development of new approaches to extract ancient DNA. In 2019 she was awarded a \$450,000, three-year NSF Search Grant related to the genetic history of the Aleut people. She teaches courses in Physical Anthropology and Human Evolution, is a faculty member for Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples, and is President of the American Association of Anthropological Genetics. Her book *Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas* was an instant New York Times bestseller. She lives in Lawrence with her husband Kenneth, and one son. She has also trained in various martial arts (including MMA), holds a third dan black belt in Ta Kwon Do and in 2012 reached the semifinals in the Chicago Golden Gloves 156-pound Senior Novice division only losing in the final title bout. Dr. Raff acknowledges her association with Rolfe Mandel (he has presented to OGMS, and has been noted for her testimony to the Texas Board of Education concerning the teaching of evolution, and has provided commentary about the information that could be learned from Elizabeth Warren's DNA test that was newsworthy).

The Feb. 5, 2026 OGMS meeting will feature a presentation entitled "Turquoise Tales: From Native American Jewelry to Tonopah" by OGMS member Lydia Cline (accompanied by her husband Roger). The Cline's are avid collectors of unique Native American jewelry and turquoise. Lydia will discuss and display some of their pieces, and describe a 2025 family visit and dig at the Otteson Brothers turquoise mine(s) north of Tonopah, Nevada. (For those specifically interested in turquoise, you might want to Google "Otteson Brothers Turquoise." This describes the family history, beginning with father Lynn Otteson mining in Colorado (the Lick Skillet Manassa King mine), as well as the Royston Claim in Nevada.)

Onward to March

As this is the 64th Annual KC Gem & Mineral Show (March 13-15) in which we participate, we do not have a club meeting in March. Prior to the show, we will be seeking club volunteers to sign up to help set up/take down the show, and assist in the various activities of the event, as well as place cases with club members displays. A reminder that all club members have free entry to the show via their club membership cards.

WANTED, WANTED, WANTED

The club has four display cases needing one or more members to temporarily borrow them and display their gem, mineral, fossil, and related items at the March 13-15 show. The club usually places about 20 display cases in these annual shows for which we (the club) receive \$25 or \$30 from the Association for each case displayed. So, this year we would like to see new and exciting displays of our members work, collections, etc. in keeping with the gem and mineral show. This is an ideal opportunity for members to display their interests, call attention to our club and thereby benefit OGMS. If interested, please contact me ASAP so that I can reserve a case for you.

Also related to the March show, several members normally set up sales (SWAP) tables offering their specific wares, specimens, etc. Those members intending to have a table(s) need to complete the Association form and return it, with payment, to Leslie Hartman ASAP, and no later than Feb. 1, 2026. (This form has been previously emailed to our members).

New OGMS members (May - Dec. 2025)

Cline, Lydia	OPKS	Interested in lapidary & metalsmithing
Cline, Roger	OPKS	Interested in lapidary & metalsmithing
DeHaven, John	Gardner, KS	Interested in gem cutting and crystals
DeHaven, Nicole	Gardner, KS	Interested in "all"
De Haven, Uriah (6-year old)	Gardner, KS	Interested in crystals, minerals, & fossils
Gering, Jerry Ann	OPKS	Interested in jewelry making
Piguet, Daniel (11-year old)	Merriam, KS	interested in crystals & minerals
Piguet, Craig	Merriam, KS	Interested in crystals & minerals
Staples, John	Shawnee, KS	Interested in gem cutting
Whitehead, Beth	Edgerton, KS	Interested in jewelry making
Whitehead, Jerry	Edgerton, KS	Interested in jewelry making, lapidary & cabochons



Santa's Surprise

'Twas a cold Christmas Eve and Santa came calling.
The stars were all twinkling, the

snow had stopped falling.
Next house on his list didn't run normally— Rockhounds lived here, (they lived quite informally).

First thing he did as he came in the den, was
trip over a tumbler—he took quite a spin.
On to the kitchen for cake and a coke—
What he saw in the window almost made him choke.

Lining the window sills—strange little rocks—
He let out an “OUCH” (he had one in his socks). Went to the living room—sat in a chair—
But he was up like a bullet—more rocks down there.

Cars in the driveway, covered with snow.
The garage? Full of rocks (wouldn't you know). Mom and Pop's room was the strangest by far... Big rocks,
little rocks, rocks in a jar!

The rocks on the dresser someone had marked “Super.”

Santa stared for awhile, then left in a stupor. He went to the john and turned rather pale— No one would
believe this incredible tale!

He looked around warily, scratched his white beard No doubt about it, these people were weird. Rocks in
the sink, rocks on the floor—
But in the bathtub, THE BATHTUB? He couldn't stand more.

He looked rather shaken, he stopped by the tree— A doll for sweet Susie, a guitar for Lee.
For Mom and for Pop, he just left a short note,
Put it under a rock—this he hurriedly wrote:

“I'm sure you're not bad folks, just hopeless,” it said,

"I honestly think, you've got rocks in your head!"

By Sandy Lynn, from Cobb-L-Stones, 12/1992 via AFMS Newsletter 12/2010-1/2011



Members are reminded that we (OGMS) subscribe to "Mini-Miners Monthly", and distribute it to our membership via email. While initially targeted to younger rockhounds, it often has information in it that many senior type rockhounds find of interest.

Also, the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (of which we, the OGMS, are a member) issues a monthly newsletter (The Rocky Mountain Federation News) which we, as a privilege of membership in turn distribute to our members. Please avail yourselves to this very fine document.

FIELD TRIPS:

No field trips are scheduled at this time, but depending on the weather, a determination may be made to schedule one. If so, an email will be sent out to all members.

If you have any ideas for a field trip, please let me know by email or text lhartman.12345@gmail.com or 785-380-6016. Lesliee

A Look Back at the OGMS Summer and Fall Activities



Mark Sherwood discussing various habits of quartz crystals in Sept. 2025



Kelly Conner presenting and explaining Alloy Metalwork operations in Oct. 2025



An always most interesting presentation (this one on antique jewelry) by Tom Tivol in Nov. 2025



Photo of the Association Booth at the the Nov. gem and mineral show



Winners of the "no contest" holiday party costumes. Courtney vanRavenswaay and Jason Benton

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Canadian Diamonds

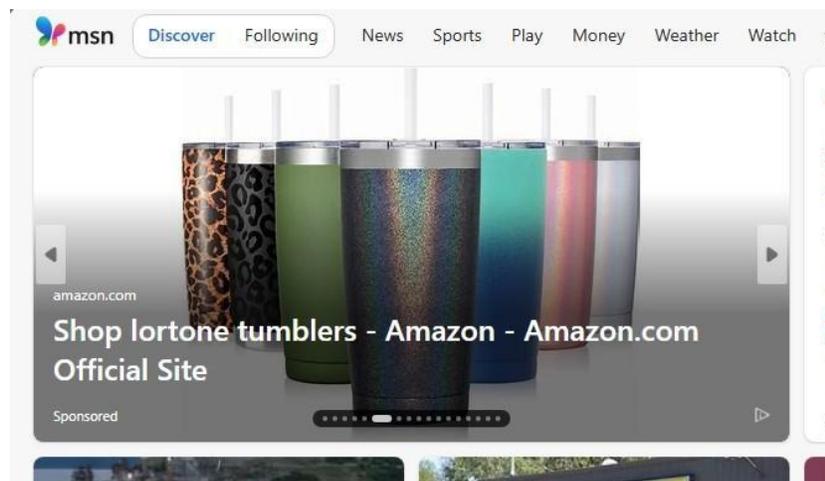
Due to world politics, three Canadian diamond mines, discovered and developed after 1992, are in the process of closing down. This is subsequent to the combination of the hastening collapse of demand for natural diamonds (because of the availability of cheaper, environmentally friendly lab-grown gems), the sequence of Canadian diamonds being sent to India (the world's biggest diamond processing hub) to be prepared, cut, and polished, and now, the U. S. 50% tariff on Indian exports.

The three mines (the David mine at Lac de Gras, the Rio Tinto mines, and the Ekati mine) in the Canadian Northwest Territories became the world's third-largest exporter of diamonds and employed more than 3,000 Indigenous workers. This constituted the only employment opportunity for the sparsely populated NW Territory of which about half of the 45,000 inhabitants are Indigenous. (NYT News Service).

Several obviously glacially deposited diamonds have been found since the mid-to-late 1800s in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio. In studying the known paths of the four major glaciers in the eastern US, it appears unlikely that these particular diamonds came from the area of the currently recognized NW Territory mines. If true, perhaps such diamonds originated from yet to be discovered Canadian sources. Let the rush begin. N Onnen

Your Lying Eyes

My apologies to the Eagles, but just had to point out an "AI" blunder which just emphasizes the need to be vigilant when looking at information on the internet. While researching some rock tumbler information, I received the following in an ad.



As can be seen, these are not Lortone Tumblers. Unfortunately, much of the information received over the internet can be misleading, inaccurate, and quite frankly be lies. For quick searches for specific information, i.e.: convert 10 inches into millimeters, you will typically get an accurate answer. If you are

searching for abstract information such as “where can I find fire agate in Arizona?” you may receive a plethora of information of which a lot may be dubious. Always try to validate the information you receive. I will get off of my soap box now and happy Googling. D. McDaniel

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, visit ROCKGEM.COM)

[Note: Excitement in AZ!!!!!! Annually over 1 million snowbirds (visitors from Canada and around the U.S.) converge at Quartzsite and then on to Tucson, AZ for the gem and mineral shows. Many OGMS members are already in Quartzsite this year.]

Jan 2-11 Quartzsite, AZ (Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show)

Jan 16-25 Quartzsite, AZ (Sell-A-Rama)

Jan 17-25 Quartzsite, AZ (RV & Gem Show) [THEN — MOVE ON TO TUCSON]

Jan 28 - Feb 15 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (Main Convention Center Feb. 12-15)

Jan 8 – OGMS Club Meeting – **Please Note:** Due to New Years Day is the first Thursday in January, Our Meeting will be on the Second Thursday of January.

Feb 5 – OGMS Club Meeting

Mar 13 - 15 64th Annual Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show. KCI Expo Center **Please Note:** No OGMS Club meeting in March

Apr 2 – OGMS Club Meeting

Apr 4,5 – Lincoln Gem and Mineral Show <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/happenings/annual-show>

Apr 24 – 26 Wichita Gem and Mineral Show <https://wichitagemandmineralsociety.org/show/>

May 7 – OGMS Club Meeting

June – OGMS Picnic Date to be Determined

Jun 5,6 – Springfield Rock & Gem Fair, Springfield, MO <https://ogms.rocks/events/>

Jul 9 – 12 – RMF Congress, Tulsa, OK

Sept – Mozarkite G&M Show, Lincoln, MO 3rd weekend of September at The Lincoln City Park (Exact Date TBD) <https://www.mozarkite.org/general-4>

Nov 6 – 8 – 47th Annual KC Shows of Integrity G&M Show; KCI Expo Center