



ROCK SOLID

April 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:

Finally, happy spring wishes to all. To date we seem to have been able to experience a rather mild winter for this area. A few more weeks and hopefully we will have a normal spring with just enough rain and warm temperatures to allow us time for yard work and the opportunity to act and perform as proper rockhounds.

Up to, and including, March 13-15, we were able to plan, organize and participate in our 64th Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the KCI Expo Center - despite predictions of bad weather. Friday and Saturday crowds were as expected, and the bad weather held off until mid-to late Sunday, which thankfully did not seem to adversely affect that day's attendance. The down side of when the weather hit affected the end of the show when all the vendors and volunteers had to pack up and exit the facility in high winds and spurts of driven snow and sleet. It helped that the wholesale side were able to pack up and begin leaving at 4pm, while the retail side officially remained open until the 5pm closure. Still, everyone managed and the building was empty by our 11pm required exit. The show results will be shared at the Association Board meeting on April 9, and then passed on to the eight participating clubs.

Our OGMS club was very active in this show with numerous attendees, volunteers, donated items, sales tables and display cases (we had apparently 33 display cases as compared to 30 last year). Thanks to all who helped make this show successful. BTW, this annual show is recognized as being one of best in the Midwest each year. Kudos to us all!!!

Now, back to our normal schedule. To all members, guests and visitors, we meet the first Thursday of each month (except June, July and August, vacation months), however we continue to have activities (picnics, field trips, etc.) throughout the entire year. Our club meetings are in room 018 at Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS from 6pm-9pm and consists of a program, raffle, light refreshments, occasional silent auctions, and various other meeting-by-meeting events depending upon the subject matter of interest on that date.

Our next meeting, April 2, will feature a presentation by Andy Connolly, Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) Science Communications Specialist, who will be discussing the area fossil and rockhound finds and sites he has been involved in. Andy is the high energy KGS representative who has for the past several years set up and been the voice of that organization at our annual gem and mineral show. He has just finished (since this last show despite this year's weather) hosting a week long Paleocamp for area elementary children (4th through 6th graders), which annually features opportunities for youth "to collect fossils, engage with experts, and get a crash course in paleontological knowledge." His knowledge of area collecting sites should be of interest to our group. In the fall (Nov. 24 -25) he will host a free Paleocamp High School session. (Signups are currently open on the KGS website).

For the April meeting, we are also inviting/asking for our members to bring in, for display and conversation, items collected from the Bonner Springs sand bars. The variety will be surprising to most and includes artifacts, minerals, fossils, fulgurites, etc.

For Your Calendars:

The remaining club meeting(s) this year will be May 7, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1.

There is a field trip scheduled for May 16 (there will be others, so watch for messages).

Our summer picnic is June 27th.

The Association picnic will be in August, date to be determined.

Our holiday party will be just before Thanksgiving.

Please check the "Upcoming" listings in our Rock Solid Bulletin and watch for email messages as other events are planned and scheduled.

"The Association" (Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Inc.)

The "Association", which is composed of eight Kansas City area clubs, of which we, the OGMS, is/are a member, is the "parent" organization which plans and produces the March annual gem and mineral show. Each club is represented in the Association by a minimum of two volunteer Board members, who attend planning meetings about once a month, and then actually produce each show. Within the Board, annual elections are held (just after each annual show) and the officers serve for one year on a rotating basis.

With that, OGMS is always seeking members who are interested in serving/promoting our club and wishing to be involved in the show. The involvement in the Association is a great opportunity to become familiar with other earth science clubs and members with similar interests. If you are interested in participating and representing our club in this manner, please contact me for further information and schedules. (onnenne@kc.rr.com)

The Association is composed of the following:

- Bead Society of Greater Kansas City
- IGAMS (Independence Gem & Mineral Society)
- KMPS (Kansas & Missouri Paleontological Society)
- Missouri Valley Gem & Mineral Society
- OGMS (Olathe Gem & Mineral Society)
- Pony Express Prospectors
- Show-Me Rockhounds of Kansas City
- The Sterling Guild of Greater Kansas City

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) Organization

Our Olathe Gem and Mineral Society (OGMS), belongs to The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS). The Rocky Mountain Federation Is one of the Seven Federations that are in turn members of the parent American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AMFS).

The AMFS is composed of the California, Eastern, Midwest, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, South Central and Southeast Federations. All clubs within the AMFS subscribe to the AFMS Code of Ethics

<https://www.rmfmts.org/amfs-land-use-policy>.

Our Rocky Mountain Federation represents 82 clubs (14,319 members) in 13 states (AZ, AR, CO, KS, western NE, NV, NM, western ND, OK, western SD, TX, UT, and WY). The RMF administers the business of the organization (insurance, staffing, required meetings, minutes, records, annual reports, etc.), plans the annual Congress, and generates/distributes the Rocky Mountain Newsletter. (The Newsletter, generated 10 times per year is distributed to OGMS members via email to our club members.)

Mr. Bones Sneak Attack

The 64th Annual Kansas City Gem & Mineral Show

This year's KC show, always an area hit, was no different and we look forward to the final report signifying our measure of success. Significant was the mix of vendors (we annually have double the applicants for the space we have available), numerous speakers, silent and live auctions, along with club and special exhibits. Mr. Bone's, a unique friend to our show, is always an immediate hit with the children as they enter, and many have photo memories of a dino seeking to gently taste them. Also, it has been observed that many groups and individuals, upon entry, immediately dash for the fluorescent display room where Dan and Connie Snow exhibit and present clearly the best florescent demonstration to be seen at any show in the country. (Easily surpasses the Tucson Show in quality and interest).



Fluorescent Exhibit

Archaeopteryx Special Exhibit, 2026 G&M Show

This year we also had a special exhibit featuring lithographic plates from Solnhofen, Germany. While seemingly unimportant, these plates, for centuries have been extracted from quarries around Solnhofen and are extremely fine-grained Jurassic limestone, being flat and stable to such a degree that they are used in the lithographic printing industry. How these plates ended up in Kansas City is a mystery, however it is assumed that they were either, and/or, used as ballast on ships coming to the US as well as being used in the printing process in this country (hence the messages visible on these pieces, which are changed periodically similar to print shop typesetting). So, back to the mining of the Solnhofen slabs. They are so pure that the blocks can be split along their bedding planes to produce cardboard-thin sheets - often containing fossils of such exquisite state that they are perfect in detail. Such is the case of the first Archaeopteryx found in 1861. This fossil, after

much intrigue and maneuvering which eliminated Germany from obtaining it (much to their distress and embarrassment), ended up being sold to the British Museum of Natural History through efforts of

Richard Owens (he coined the word dinosaur) and George Waterhouse. It was significant in that this was during the time of Darwin and there was considerable debate about evolution and the need to identify a missing link, which this Archaeopteryx partially spanned the void between reptile and bird, but not without years of argument and conflict. Also partially spanning the link (however on parallel pathways by sharing similarities), was Copsognathus (a small dinosaur), and then Hesperornis (a flightless 6-foot-tall toothed giant discovered in western Kansas by Othniel Marsh in 1872). The cast Archaeopteryx exhibited at our show represents the second such fossil (found/mined at



*Archaeopteryx Fossil and Lithographic Plates Exhibit
Dan Snow*

Solnhofen in 1874) and is in a Berlin, Germany museum (which also has a perfect Archaeopteryx feather found independently). As of 2002 there were seven known original specimens in museums around the world - all from the Solnhofen quarries. (Ref., **Bones of Contention**; Paul Chambers, 2002). (Also of interest: **The Inner Bird, Anatomy and Evolution**; Gary W. Kaiser, 2007; **Taking Wing, Archaeopteryx and the Evolution of Bird Flight**; Pat Shipman, 1998; and **The Bird**, Colin Trudge, 2008.)

The exhibited 4 lithographic plates (11 in all obtained) were rescued in 1976 from a wall of a printing shop on Admiral Blvd. With the advent of off-set printing, litho stones were obsolete for commercial printing and as such these were incorporated in a masonry wall sometime after the 1920's.

Flashback to Previous Club Programs, etc.

1). Related to our Feb. 5 "Turquoise Tales: From Native American Jewelry to Tonopah" presentation by OGMS member Lydia Cline, discussion followed concerning gemstones and other materials being used in NA jewelry. Including the original use of turquoise, shell and bone, the following is a list of materials now being used in NA jewelry (all the while striving to maintain the NA image and influence). This list was assembled from the 1992 book "Southwestern Indian Jewelry" by Dexter Cerillo.

Abalone, Amber, Amethyst, Antelope horn, Aphalopod shell, Argillite, Banded agate, Baroque pearls, Battery, Black Brazilian agate, Black onyx, Black-lip shell, Calcacydrite, Chinese turquoise, Chrysoprase, Clam shell, Cocobolo, Coconut shell, Coin silver, Cone shell, Deer horn, Diamond, Dolomite, Ebony, Garnet, Geyer stone, Glycymeris shell, Gold, Gold-lip, Green snail shell, Hematite, Ironwood, Ivory, fossilized, Jet, Lapis, Malachite, Melon shell, Mother-of-pearl, Olive shell, Opal, Pecten shell, Pen shell, Picasso marble, Pink coral, Pipestone, Phonograph record, Psilomelene, Red coral, Rose quartz, Rutilated quartz, Serpentine, Snowflake obsidian, Spiny oyster, Spotted cowrie shell, Sugilite, Travertine, Turquoise, Variscite.

Unexpectedly, battery and phonograph records appear in the listing. These were incorporated during

WWII when materials were hard to come by because of the war effort. Jewelry pieces containing these materials serve as an index to the time and craftsmanship, and are highly collectable.

2). Related to the March 2026 Rock Solid Bulletin piece on "Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals" (REE-REM), the "60 Minutes" program on Sunday, March 22, 2026 featured a story on the issue and discussed the Mountain Pass, CA and Defense Department 15% ownership stake in mining neodymium and praseodymium. They further discussed the treaties and difficulty involved internationally in obtaining critical minerals, all the while maintaining national security and negotiating ability.

Also, related to this, The Rocky Mountain Federation News dated Feb. 2026 contains an article by Mike Nelson entitled "What's in the Subsurface, Elk Creek Carbonate, REE/REM, and Critical Minerals". The piece discusses research and findings in the extreme corners of SE Nebraska and NE Kansas respectively. Now, apparently a Colorado-based firm (NioCorp), flying aeromagnetic surveys and pulling a magnetometer, discovered a "vertical gravity gradient high" which later confirmed the presence of a carbonate intrusion. The firm has acquired the mineral rights to what is named the Elk Creek project, has begun drilling and is completing plans to construct and operate an underground mine to harvest over a 30-year period. They expect to extract 1.) 125,800 tonnes of Neodymium-Praseodymium Oxide (projected as the 2nd largest resource in the US); 2.) 9,100 tonnes of Dysprosium Oxide (projected as the 2nd largest resource in the US; 3.) 2,300 tonnes of Terbium Oxide (projected as the largest resource in the US); 4.) 970,300 tonnes of Ferronobium (considered the highest grade of this under development in the US); 5.) 11,337 tonnes of Scandium Oxide (projected to be the largest US producer; and 6.) 4,221,000 Titanium Dioxide (expected to be a co-product). So, perhaps our Nov. 2021 OGMS presenter, Dr. Franek Hasiuk from the KGS, was right-on in suggesting REE-REMs were possible in Kansas and Missouri. The "vertical gravity gradient high" is a granitic intrusion, a part of the failed ridge extending from Oklahoma to the Lake Superior region. It comes nearest to the surface in NE KS (including Elk Creek, NE). Elk Creek, NE, on the North Fork of the Big Nemaha River, is only 22 miles north of the Kansas border and is the location that many of our club members hunt for fossils, Lake Superior agates, etc., in the glacial till and quarries of the area.

OGMS T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, ETC.

Attention club members: New to Olathe Gem & Mineral Society? No need to wait 24 months to be eligible for our T-shirt. You may have one with payment of a second year's dues. I have your shirt size as listed on the application form.

We also have a limited supply of zipper, hooded sweatshirts. These have our club emblem embroidered on them. Sweatshirts are sold at cost. Contact Barbara Crompton if interested, 913-244-6730.

OGMS -- Around the Gem and Mineral Show



*Chet McLaughlin Master Association Booth
Sales Representative*



*OGMS Member Nicole Garretson AKA Ms.
Bones? Guiding Visitors to OGMS Sales Tables*



*Barbara & Scott Crompton
At the OGMS Sales Tables*



*Louise Parton at the Alloy Metalsmithing
Booth in the Demonstration Area*

PRELIMINARY OGMS PICNIC INFORMATION

The OGMS Picnic is scheduled for June 27th. This year's picnic will start in the **morning**. The current agenda is as follows: (subject to change)

9:30 am	Setup will begin
10:30am	Silent Auction begins
12:00am	Lunch
1:30pm	Time to pack up and leave

More information will be forth coming.

FIELD TRIPS:

Copper Valley Mine: On May 16th we will have a field trip to the Copper Valley Mine. I need to know by April 16th if you will be going, after April 16th you will not be put on the list. These are the rules of the copper mine. For more information on this field trip, please see the February 2026 Rock Solid Bulletin olathegemclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Febbul2026.pdf.

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

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

A lighter side (from the March 2026 RMF Newsletter)

What do you call twin dinosaurs? (A.) Pair-odactyls

What do you call a dinosaur wearing a cowboy hat and boots? (A.) Tyrannosaurus Tex

What do you get if you cross a dinosaur with a pig? (A.) Jurassic Pork

Why do museum's exhibit old dinosaur bones? (A.) Because they can't afford new ones.

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)

Apr 2 – OGMS Club Meeting - "Kansas Fossils" by Andrew Connolly from the Kansas Geological Survey

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

Apr 18,19 – Northwest Arkansas Gem and Mineral Society Show, Bentonville, AR
<https://nwarockhounds.com/>

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

Apr 25,26 — Midwest Gold Show 2026; Platte County Fairgrounds, 15730 Fairgrounds Road, Platte City, MO

May 1 – 3 McPherson Gem and Mineral Annual Show, McPherson, KS <https://www.mgmc.club/>

May 7 – OGMS Club Meeting

May 8 – 10 Central MO Rock, Gem, Mineral Show; 2525 N. Stadium Blvd. (Route E), Columbus, MO
<https://cmrlc.org/rock-%26-mineral-show>

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

Jun 26 – 28 - Osage Rock and Mineral Club Gem, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral, & Fossil Show; Eldon Community Center, 309 E. 2nd St., Eldon, MO <https://www.facebook.com/osagerockandmineralclub/>

Jun 27 – OGMS Picnic

Jul 9 – 12 – RMF Congress, Tulsa, OK

Jul 10 – 12 – Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society Rock, Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Tulsa, OK. Exchange Center at Expo Square, 4145 E. 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74114 <https://tulsarockandmineralsociety.org/>

Sep 26,27 – Omaha Gem and Mineral Show, 1046 West Lincoln St, Papillion NE nerockgem.org/annual-gem-and-mineral-show.html

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>

Oct 30- Nov 1 — OK Mineral and Gem Society Annual Mineral and Gem Show; Modern Living Building, OKC State Fair Park, 608 Kiamichi Place, OKC, OK https://omgs-minerals.org/?page_id=407

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