



ROCK SOLID

OLATHE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 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.

WHEN

First Thursday monthly
(except Jun, Jul, Aug, Dec)
6:00 – 8:45 PM

WHERE

Hope Chapel, Room 018
12480 S. Black Bob Road
Olathe, Kansas

DUES

\$15 / year (adults)
\$5 / year (minors)
Free under age 12

ONLINE

olathegemclub.org

MEETINGS

The meetings are the first Thursday of each month except June, July, August and December. The Club's 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. We meet on the lower level in room 018. 6:00 to 7:00 is not structured, as members fellowship and have a raffle. The meeting starts at 7 PM with announcements, introductions of new members, followed by the guest speaker.

Information is available at our website: olathegemclub.org

OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS • 2026 – 2027

President	Norman Onnen	(816) 645-1333
Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Alison Betts	(913) 962-9584
Treasurer	Barbara Crompton	(913) 492-6783
Website & Editor	Jeff Hatfield	(816) 263-7680
Membership Chair	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 & Historian	Norman Onnen	(816) 645-1333
Gem Show Chairman	Norman Onnen	
Raffle	Leslie Hartman	
Association Delegates	Chet McLaughlin & Mandy Lorenz	
Alternate Assoc. Delegate	Larry Wells	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back OGMS members. We hope your summer activities were meaningful (Gem & Mineral related) and successful (lots of specimens collected and shared). As most are aware this has been a very hot (record temps) and dry summer in the KC area which without question deserved our escape to milder environments — and no one can be criticized for taking advantage of that opportunity, if it was an option.

As a reminder to our members, guests and visitors, we will meet the first Thursday evening (Sept. 3 and Oct. 1, 2026) at Hope Chapel, 12480 Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS from 6-9pm in room 018 (which is on the lower level and accessible by elevator). Our meetings include a gem, mineral, fossil or jewelry related presentation, a specimens raffle, and light refreshments. Typically (depending upon the presentation) about 30-50 members and guests attend, and all are welcome.

Our Sept. 3, 2026 club meeting will feature the much requested **gold panning**, to be led by Larry Wells and Vince Martini. We have acquired concentrate which we anticipate will result in each of our participating members rescuing golden flakes from the sediments (as well as potentially a few garnets and sapphires). Members who, have them should bring their own gold pans, however there will be some available to borrow, if needed. Watch for other tips and instructions in the days before this meeting.

For the gold panning, Larry suggests the following —

Email Larry if you will be attending at welsdesign@icloud.com (so that he has a count)

Bring (if you have them) a gold pan, a flash light (preferably a head lamp), a strong magnet, a magnifying glass, an optivisor, a small bottle with an eyedropper.

He also suggest wearing grubby clothes

Our Oct. 1, 2026 club meeting will feature a most anticipated presentation about **beryls (emeralds, aquamarine, morganite, heliador, bixbite (red beryl), etc.)** by club member Tom Tivol. (For newer members who may not have met Tom, he is an OGMS member as well as a prominent Kansas City-area jeweler, Graduate Gemologist (GIA), and attorney with over 50 years of experience in the fine jewelry business. He founded Tom Tivol Jewels in Leawood, KS following his role as president of the family-run Tivol enterprise.) You'll not want to miss this most entertaining and informative presentation.

On Nov. 6-8, 2026 we will be participating in the 47th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Bead Show to be held at the KCI Expo center.

And, on Nov. 19 we will take part in our annual holiday party. (More information on this is coming).

Welcome Jeff / Thank you Dan

We welcome OGMS member Jeff Hatfield who has taken over the functions of Webmaster and Bulletin Editor for our club. We also thank Dan McDaniel who performed these important functions for our club for several years. Dan inherited those duties from M. John Robinson, our original IT guru.

As a part of the Bulletin Editor function, Jeff would appreciate receiving articles, notices, etc. from any of our members to be included in the monthly Rock Solid Bulletin. To submit any items please send them to Jeff at hatfield.jeff@proton.me (and/or, he may be reached on his cell phone number 816 263 7680).

Mini Miner Monthly

A recent question was sent via email to our OGMS members asking if we should continue our subscription and distribution of Mini-Miner Monthly. The answer from numerous members was a resounding “yes” (over 5 to 1) with comments that adults, as well as our youth, find the document interesting and useful. So, as we renew the subscription, please remember to give Diamond Dan Publications credit if this is used and shared for educational purposes outside of OGMS. Thank you to all that responded.

OGMS Past Programs and Updates

Some will recall that we (OGMS) at our meetings had presentations on Nov. 18, 2021 from Dr. Franck Hasiuk entitled “Exploring for Critical Minerals in Kansas and Vicinity”; and on Oct. 5, 2022 from Dr. Rolfe Mandel entitled “Searching for Evidence of the First People in the Americas”; and on April 3, 2025 from Dr. Justin Holcomb entitled “The Western Stemmed Tradition and the Peopling of the Americas: Recent Discoveries in the far West”. In their continuing research these individuals have published the following -

Dr. Hasiuk - - Bedrock Drill Core and Cuttings (co-author)

Dr. Mandel - - Late Quaternary landscape evolution in river valleys of the Nebraska Sand Hills, USA (principal author)

Dr. Holcomb - - Human resilience in cold desert environments: Late Pleistocene archaeology at Conley Cave 4, USA (co-author)

These documents, as well as follow on presentations by these individuals and our other speakers, are available upon request (with the exception of a presentation of Dr. Hasiuk who now is at Sandia Lab in Alb., NM)

Dues and Merch

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.

DUES. Unlike some organizations you may be affiliated with, OGMS follows a calendar year of May to May. This means that annual dues are due the first of May. There is a grace period that ends after the club's September general meeting. Those members who have not paid are dropped from the membership list which I am required to maintain as part of our report to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Please be prepared to pay dues at the September meeting if you are not current, cash or check (payable to OGMS). Adult membership is \$15, youth ages 12-18 years is \$5, and a child under 12 years is \$0.

For those unable to attend the September meeting my mailing address is: 6912 Reeder Street, Shawnee, KS 66203-4112.

On-Time Dues Drawing

For our May 2026 club meeting, there was a drawing in which two members renewing their dues on time would be selected for an undisclosed (at that time) prize. The winners were - -

Pam Maben

Cynthia Palermo

Prizes (which are slowly aging) may be claimed at the next meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip #1

Location: Turkey Point, Kansas

Date: August 29, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

If you look up Turkey Point Campground 30967 Turkey Point Parkway Kansas. You will be at Melvern Lake and passing up Eisenhower State Park if you are coming off I75 on to West 293rd St. You will not completely go to the campground. There will be a sign pointing the way to Turkey Point and I will be there. That will be the location for our field trip.

This location has brachiopods, trilobites (need to really look), bryozoans, gastropods, etc. This area you can see them before walking on them and there is abundance. Make sure to bring garden shovels, rock hammer, something to carry your finds, and the usual drinks and snacks.

Field Trip #2

Location: GREAT SALT PLAINS, CHEROKEE, OK

Date: September 19, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM

September Field trip Let me know if you will be coming. This will be an open field trip with all the groups looking for Selenite. Bruce Stinemetz (816-506-8325) from the Independence Gem and Minerals Society will be at the meeting place below if you would like to follow him to the Salt Plains or you can just go to the Salt Plains on your own.

Meeting Place – If anyone wants to go to the Salt Plains as a group, Bruce will be leaving the Cherokee Inn at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday morning. The Inn is located on route 8 on the south side of town. This is a public access area so you are not required to go as a group.

Suggested Route

- Take I-35 south to Emporia, KS where it joins the Kansas Turnpike 107 miles
- Continue south past Wichita into OK to route 11 near Blackwell, OK 163
- Take Route 11 west to Route 8 63
- Take Route 8 into Cherokee, OK 2
- 335 miles

Accommodations

- Cherokee Inn (580) 596-2828
- Other motels are available in Alva, OK which is 16 miles northwest of Cherokee
- Camping is available at the Great Salt Plains State Park

Equipment

- Shovel
- Bucket
- Water Scoop
- Beer flats or boxes

- Wrapping material
- Suntan lotion
- Hat
- Plastic trash bags for dirty clothes
- Change of clothes and spare shoes
- Lunch
- Drinking and wash water

Selenite



On Sept. 8 a message was received indicating that Bruce Stinemetz of the Independence Gem and Minerals Society (IGAMS) was putting together an open field trip to the Great Salt Plains at Cherokee, OK on Sept. 19 to collect selenite crystals. This is a public access area and as such you are not required to go in as a group. That being said, if you wish to attend and want to go in as a group, you may meet up with Bruce at 9am at the Cherokee Inn in Cherokee on Sat., Sept. 19. (Bruce's number is 816 506 8325. The Cherokee Inn number is 580 596 2828).

An exceptional size/specimen of selenite crystals from the Great Salt Plains at Cherokee, OK. This particular specimen (about the size of a volley ball) is on display at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center in Lawrence, KS

Unusual Smoky Quartz

Mineral crystals are known to have what is considered usual growth habits, and quartz is no exception. That being said, a smoky quartz crystal was recently rescued (it was to be moved by a family from Mt. Ida, Arkansas to the distant reaches of Minnesota). This particular crystal decided to have a split growth habit (probably due to interrupted growth, change in solution, temperature and/or some space constraint as it developed). And while split growth is not all that uncommon (when occurring this will be a cactus habit where the new growth happens at an angle to the original growth), this particular specimen decided to split and grow parallel to the original crystal. As it turns out, growth terminated and it would have been interesting to see what the end result would have been should completion occurred.



Smoky quartz specimen, normal view



Smoky quartz, split growth side view

Fossil Recent History

A recent assignment to prepare a couple of *Meoichirus logimnus* (lobster-like) fossils, became a recent history lesson of sorts. First, two of the specimens were realized to actually be the "part" and "counterpart" of the same specimen, and as such will be kept together for display purposes. And then, researching the collection label information (*Meoichirus Longinus*; Jurassic, Malm zeta 2; Eichstatt, Germany; Coll. by Franz Lehner) it was realized that the quarry site was adjacent to the Solnhofen beds where the original fossil bird (*Archaeopteryx*) was found in Germany. Now, it appears that the collector (Franz Lehner) might have been the grandson of Leonhard Lehner who did much geology and fossil description and work in this quarry in the 1920's. Leonhard's entire extensive collection was destroyed during WWII. Small , small world.

Part and counterpart of the *Meoichirus logimnus* fossil collected by Franz Lehner

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 rockngem.com.

Sept. 3, 2026	OGMS Club Meeting
Sept. 19, 2026	Great Salt Plains, OK. Selenite collecting
Sept. 26-27, 2026	Omaha Gem and Mineral Show ; Papillion Landing Field House; 1046 W. Lincoln St.; Papillion, NE
Oct. 1, 2026	OGMS Club Meeting
Oct. 30- Nov. 1, 2026	OK Mineral and Gem Society Annual Mineral and Gem Show ; OKC State Fair Park, 608 Kiamichi Place, OKC, OK
Nov. 6-8, 2026	Shows of Integrity 47th Annual G&M Show
Nov. 19, 2026	OGMS Holiday Party
Mar. 12-14, 202	65th Annual KC Gem & Mineral Show