



ROCK SOLID

OLATHE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OCTOBER 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

IMPORTANT NOTICE — - - — Our meeting at Hope Chapel on Oct. 1, 2026 will be the last meeting at this location.

This meeting will feature a much anticipated program on beryl (emeralds, aquamarine, etc.) by Tom Tivol. As background, and for those who have yet to meet Tom, he is a “highly respected jeweler in the Kansas City area, and a nationally acclaimed G.I.A. graduate gemologist, lecturer, and teacher. He has been buying and selling diamonds, colored gemstones, and pearls, to clients around the United States for 35 years. He authored and teaches his course in Gemology and Appraisal Ethics at the University of Kansas and founded his firm, Tom Tivol Jewels, this following his early years of his career in his family's retail jewelry business serving as the President from 1989- 2004. In his business he specializes in core jewelry products which include diamonds, colored gemstones, classic and fashion cultured pearls, antique and estate jewelry, and custom design pieces.” (From LinkedIn)



Tom Tivol presenting to OGMS in the past.

Beryl

A short discussion about beryl is offered prior to the Oct. 1 presentation. Beryl is silicate of beryllium and aluminum which crystallizes as “fairly complete” hexagonal prisms. Beryl crystals that have brilliant color (the color a result of minerals) and are transparent, are the most highly prized as gems. These prized specimens are emerald (color due to chromium), aquamarine (due to iron), morganite (a pink variety), golden beryl (a yellow variety), heliodor a yellow-green) and red beryl (aka bixbite) to name the most desired. Some may be confused with topaz, however the density (2.7 for beryl & 3.5 for topaz) is the factor clearly distinguishing the two species. The red beryl is very rare and is found in rhyolite in Utah (and in New Mexico, however this location/documentation is presently questionable.) Other than the gemstone quality, beryl is fairly common, being an accessory mineral in granite rocks crystalizing in pegmatites as very large cloudy opaque specimens, some over a meter in length. (Also, see “Any guesses” below).

And With That, We Are Moving...

We will be moving BUT NOT UNTIL November!!!!!!!!!!

Beginning in November 2026 we will be meeting at the Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater St., Merriam, Kansas 66202. (This Community Center is just one block east of the IKEA store off I-35 and Johnson Drive). Watch our Bulletin and notices for more information on this new location as we get closer to the change.

Our Sept. 3 gold panning experience



Gold Panning 101 @ OGMS 9/3/26 Our most eager and youngest panner

Our Sept. 3, 2026 club meeting featured the much awaited and anticipated gold panning exercise. While we can't claim to be "49ers", we did have 48 members eagerly try their luck, and at the end of the session there were several examples of gold flakes and nuggets, as well as some garnets, found. We're not informed that anyone found enough to change their way of life (unless the gold bug fever compels some to head for the hills at the next opportunity). Note that there is no cure for gold fever once a person is infected, and OGMS is not liable for that incurable disease.

Note: [More gold panning photos](#) on our web site.

When is "eccentric" not an attitude or a personality trait?

At the July 2026 Tulsa Gem and Mineral Show there was a partial Special Exhibit featuring "Eccentrics". These were described as being representative of items carved of flint, chert, and obsidian, and which were said to be used primarily for ceremonial purposes. They "reportedly" have been found in Central America, Mexico, Central United States, England and Western Europe.

The exhibited pieces, a portion of the Mark Tussinger collection, resides in the Elsing Museum at Tulsa's Oral Roberts University. A claim that Mr. Tussinger in 1921 dug up the cache of over 3,000 "Oklahoma eccentrics" from the Rhoads Mounds in Delaware County, Oklahoma has been dubbed "the most famous and debated archaeological hoax in North American history." Roughly 800 of these carvings were purchased by Willard Elsing who then donated half of them to the Oral Roberts University in Tulsa.



Mark Tussinger partial "OK eccentrics" exhibit Tulsa, OK, July 2026

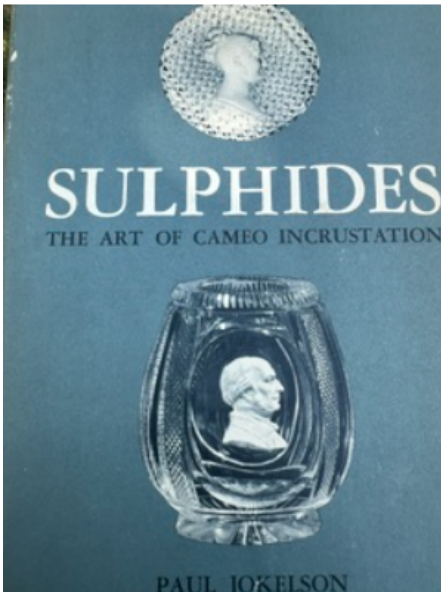
The declared fraudulent items have undergone microscopic examination which revealed oxidized iron tool marks proving they were crafted in the 20th century using modern metal pressure flakers. Respecting that determination, and acknowledging that the flintknapping community now recognizes Mr. Tussinger's "incredible skill, creativity, and craftsmanship, there is agreement that replicating his complex, delicate "lacework" designs remains incredibly difficult, turning his artifacts into highly sought-after

pieces of unique American folk art." Subsequent to previous requests, there will be an attempt to borrow a portion of this collection and feature it as a Special Exhibit at a future KC gem and mineral show.

Sulphides - - not to be confused with Sulfides

Pronounced the same, but.....most rockhounds will immediately identify with sulfides (the collection of minerals, most of which look metallic, are relatively soft, and are brittle (except for molybdenite). Included are such as galena, pyrite, marcasite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite, and covelite.

As for "sulfides", there is little recognition or general knowledge of the actual art, which is the process of cameo incrustation (the act of introduction into the interior of glass any item, historically a carved cameo, medallion or other object). Originally (around 1750) there were attempts to cast, or enclose, ornaments such as coats of arms, portraits or cameos of any color or variety in glass so as to become chemically imperishable. This primarily focused in France with the purpose of glorifying Neapolitan and his image. For the most part the process was unsuccessful due to the incompatible expansion or contraction of dissimilar materials (the glass and the item to be encased) during heating and cooling, and the trapped moisture that resulted around the introduced item. While some attempts were marginally successful, most were not and the art form languished for decades. Those items that were successful are highly collectible and most reside in private collections and/or museums.



It is said that "England has long been famed for bringing to perfection and directing to useful application, the crude inventions of other countries" which is certainly the case of the sulphide art efforts. Patents were taken out in the 1830's for what then was termed "Crystallo-Ceramic", the process of "enclosing in glass ornaments of any description - coats of arms, ciphers, portraits and landscapes, so as to become chemically imperishable." The developed process involved selecting materials that would require a higher degree of heat from their fusion than the glass, and a method to collapse the glass around the inserted item all the while exhausting the air and moisture. With that, the process or art movement, became popular and resulted in flasks, glass tableware, medallions, brooches, candlesticks, paperweights, buttons, etc., with cameo and other inserts glorifying royalty (including death masks), religious figures, motherhood, pets, flowers, gemstones, and even carved landscapes.

EON Library

While not a presently a widespread art effort, there are some still that are accomplished and/or practicing the method. Of note, Bruce Breslow (the "Marble Man" at the Moon Marble Company in Bonner Springs, KS) indicates that he has in the past produced such items, and he maintains in the shop his private collection of historic blown glass and similar items. (For those interested in glass blowing, Mr. Breslow demonstrates his craft each week (10am-5pm Tuesday - Sat., and also on Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas).

An on-line inquiry to the Kansas City's Nelson-Atkins Museum of Arts indicates that they "house cameo incrustations - commonly known as sulphides - within its decorative arts and glass collections."

Nepal-Tibet (and Montana) Glacial Floods

The August 26, 2026 massive flood in Nepal and Tibet reportedly resulted in 1,400 confirmed deaths, with another 6,000 individuals still missing. The scope of this present-day disaster is hard to comprehend, however historically (actually pre-historically), it is recognized as not being unique.

The Nepal-Tibet event occurred when an earthquake displaced mountain-side earth and rock resulting in the damming (which soon failed) of a major waterway which was fed by glacial discharge. As the water backed up and overflowed the obstruction, it soon failed and the massive volume of water rushed downstream through very narrow canyons picking up speed and debris en route to the villages below. While there had been recognition of the upper elevation situation, the back up and collapse of the dam occurred so rapidly, that there was no timely notification to downstream villages that the estimated 2.5 million cubic meters of water and debris was soon to be upon them.

While this event was described as the result of an earthquake, earlier studies focused on similar resulting disasters which could be attributed to "slope failure from glacial shrinkage" (some might suggest global warming). That being said, there is little distinction if one is caught in a discharge of this magnitude regardless of how or why it occurs.

Looking back 15,000 to 16,000 years ago, at what is now Montana, there was a Lake Missoula which was constrained within the elevated region of the Rocky Mountains and adjacent peaks and ranges. Similar to the presently enclosed Great Basin (but much elevated) several streams feed into the extensive Missoula and Bitterroot Valley, with the only discharge opportunity being the elevated Clark Fork River flowing to the northwest. This was the time of the last recorded glacier on the continent, and a finger of the glacier blocked the Clark Fork River at Lake Pend Oreille, in Idaho. Studies, recognizing that the density of ice is 10 percent that of water, indicate that as the lake elevation rose, the glacial ice finger floated and broke free causing immediate failure of Lake Missoula to the extent of 500 - 600 cubic miles of water being discharged in less than 48 hours. (This quantity is the equivalent of the water held in Lakes Erie and Ontario combined, all rushing downstream in less than two days). The results of this massive destruction may be recognized in the scablands (named for the scalping of the land to underlying magna) of southeastern Washington state, and various effects on the Snake and Columbia Rivers all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

At the time of this particularly described disaster, the depth of the water at the ice dam (which is estimated to have been over 30 miles wide) was over 2,000 feet. And apparently this was not an isolated event. Studies of lake deposits on adjacent Lake Missoula banks, indicate that there may have been up to 36 similar events previously which discharge during the long glacial periods and contributed to coulees, the scablands, Camas Prairie ripples, and the giant potholes environment of from northern Idaho, through SE Washington, across Northern Oregon and into the Pacific Ocean.

Worldwide, it has been revealed that other much larger events have occurred such as in the Altay Mountains of Siberia and the northward drainage of Glacial Lake Agassiz in North Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba, Canada, among others little understood or yet identified.

Speaking of Galciers, this last week it was announced that St. Mary's Glacier in Clear Creek County, Colorado is no more, having completely thawed this summer. This easily accessible glacier just off highway I-70, only 35 miles west of Denver, has always been a favorite stop for summer and winter travelers on their way to vacation spots in the surrounding mountains. Such is global warming, and finally, but not global warming related, the hummingbirds (except for one straggler) seem to have up and

left the KC area for Mexico, effective Tuesday morning, Sept. 22. The overnight temperature, as well as the length of the day apparently was the triggering factor.

The Gem and Mineral Shows

A reminder that the next G&M Show that we will be involved in at the KCI Expo Center is November 6-8, 2026. Those club members interested and/or intending to have a sales table at this event should contact Leslie Hartman (telephone 785 380 6016; email lhartman.12345@gmail.com) ASAP. For this particular show, as in the past, 10% of sales should be submitted to the individuals clubs. Your membership card provides access to this show regardless of a members involvement in the planning, set up activities or involvement during the show.

Our 65th Annual Gem and Mineral Show (March 12-14, 2027, also at the KCI Expo Center, is in the planning stages, but it is not too early to be making arrangements for this, our major yearly event. Again, if you are interested and/or are intending to have a sales table at this event, contact Leslie Hartman (telephone 785 380 6016; email Hartman.12345@gmail.com). At this show our clubs set up individual display cases to which the clubs benefit financially. Many members have their own display cases, but the club also has some cases which may be borrowed (first come, first served). If you need to borrow a case please contact me ASAP to have one reserved (Norm Onnen; 816 645 1333; onnenne@kc.rr.com). Volunteers are needed for this show for several functions and lists will be made in Jan. and Feb. for those able to volunteer their time and energy. Your membership card provides access to this show regardless of a members involvement in the planning, set up activities or involvement during the show.

Hot off the press



Of regional interest, the Old Man Of the Fossil Beds, A Kansas Dreamer, His Family of Hunters, and Their Search for Prehistoric Sea Creatures and Fossils of the Rock Chalk, Bones and Beasts of Cretaceous Kansas by Kansas native/KU Grad Melanie Bonner Thomas describes the unique early twentieth-century High Plains of Kansas fossil-hunting Bonner family and their contribution to science and museums. The author's father and her four brothers were involved in the discovery, preparation and placement of over 1,200 western Kansas Cretaceous fossils in nine museums in the U.S. and Canada. Presently the books, published in 2025 and 2026 respectively are on sale at the KU bookstore, at The Raven Bookstore (809 Massachusetts Street, Lawrence, KS), and from the publisher Chalk Lily Books

(chillilybooks.com). The author will have a presentation at the Lawrence Public Library, 2pm, Friday, October. 2.

Any Guesses?



From the May bulletin, there have been no responses to the following, so once again are there any guesses?

Note: Send your guesses to onnene@kc.rr.com

And, now a new one - - (Be careful with this large crystal. While emeralds, aquamarines, etc. are hexagonal beryls, not all hexagonal specimens are gems and/or precious stones)



New members (since May, 2026)

Amy Eastin Kansas City, MO
 Colette Eastin (Youth) Kansas City, MO
 Conrad Eastin (Youth) Kansas City, MO
 Lydia Eastin (Youth) Kansas City, MO
 Debra Eiben Olathe, KS
 Stephen Eiben Olathe, KS
 Saul Ellis Overland Park, KS (Renewal)
 Gary Felkner Leawood, KS
 Jennifer Finley Olathe, KS
 George Kobzel St. Joseph, MO
 Angi Palquist Olathe, KS
 Eric Palmquist Olathe, KS
 Virginia Phillips Parkville, MO
 Brian Schaffer Raytown, MO

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.

Oct. 1, 2026	OGMS Club Meeting; Hope Chapel - Rm 018; 12480 S. Blackbob Road, Olathe, KS.
Oct. 10-11, 2026	TOPEKA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY 69th ANNUAL SHOW ; 1901 N. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2026	OK Mineral and Gem Society Annual Mineral and Gem Show ; 608 Kiamichi Place, OKC, OK
Nov. 5, 2026	NOTE - - NO Nov. 5 CLUB MEETING, IN LIEU OF THE NOV. G&M SHOW ACTIVITIES
Nov. 6-8, 2026	Shows of Integrity 47th Annual G&M Show ; KCI Expo Center; 11730 NW Ambassador Dr Kansas City, MO 64153
Nov. 19, 2026	OGMS Holiday Party; Merriam Community Center 5pm - 8pm; 6040 Slater St., Merriam, KS 66202
Jan. 7, 2027	OGMS Club Meeting; Merriam, KS Community Center; 6040 Slater St., Merriam, KS 66202
Feb. 4, 2027	OGMS Club Meeting; Merriam, KS Community Center; 6040 Slater St., Merriam, KS 66202
Mar. 4, 2027	NOTE - - NO MARCH 4, 2027 CLUB MEETING, IN LIEU OF THE MARCH G&M SHOW ACTIVITIES
Mar. 12-14, 2027	65th Annual KC Gem & Mineral Show ; KCI Expo Center; 1730 N Ambassador Dr, KCMO 64153
Apr. 1, 2027	OGMS Club Meeting; Merriam, KS Community Center; 6040 Slater St., Merriam, KS 66202

May 6, 2027	OGMS Club Meeting; Merriam, KS Community Center; 6040 Slater St., Merriam, KS 66202
-------------	---