



**OLATHE
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY BULLETIN
April 4, 2017**

**A non-profit group, organized to educate the general public and members' knowledge of Mineralogy, Gems, Jewelry Making, Fossils and related earth sciences.
Founded March 1956**

MEETINGS:

The meetings are the first Tuesday of each month (except June, July, August and December).

The meetings will be at the Indian Creek Community Church, 12480 Blackbob Road in Olathe.

We will have a meeting room from 6:30 to 9 pm. We will be meeting downstairs in room 018.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DUES: \$10.00 per year for individuals / \$5.00 per year for minors.

(Due by May meeting, and delinquent by Sept. meeting.)

Officers for 2016-2017

President:	Norman Onnen – (816) 331-4862
Vice President:	Larry Wells - (913) 787-5138
Secretary:	Spring Wittmeier – (913) 945-0878
Treasurer:	Barbara Crompton – (913) 492-6783
Bulletin:	M John Robinson – (913) 669-8284
Website Editor:	M John Robinson – (913) 669-8284
Membership Chairman	M John Robinson– (913) 669-8284

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Spring is officially here — and the serious season of outside rockhounding beckons. Hurray!

I have just returned from the annual Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) convention as a delegate. These Federation meetings (held this year in conjunction with and by organization of the Alb., NM club show) followed an agenda of selection of new officers (for 2017-2018), discussions and voting of new and/or edited Operating Procedures, Bylaws review/adjustment, and plans going forward. The business meetings were preceded by an awards session concerning clubs websites, bulletins, etc., and followed by a closing banquet in which additional individual awards were made, and the oncoming officers were introduced/sworn in. As a part of the conference, two field trips were arranged for interested participants. Take aways from the conference include the recognition and awareness of activities, programs and lessons learned of other RMFMS clubs/members (primarily via the various award categories exercised, and networking), the energy and positive efforts of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), RMFMS and clubs in advancing the interests, concerns and plans of our hobby focus. To that end, it has been determined that the next annual RMFMS convention will (negotiations are underway, and

need final confirmation) occur in June 2018 in conjunction with the “Cottontail” event in Fairplay, CO — this to be a consolidated sponsored/organized effort by the several Denver area clubs. For a 2019 convention it has been solicited by interested clubs for that session to occur in Rapid City, SD.

For general information (per the RMFMS Treasurer), the RMFMS consists of clubs in 13 states (AZ, AK, CO, KS, NE, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, UT, and WY); 78 clubs (up from 76 in 2016); and 10, 400 members (up from 9, 761 in 2016). Similarly RMFMS belongs to the AFMS which consists of 7 Federations (CA, Rocky Mountain, S. Central, SE, E. Midwestern, Midwest and NW).

Our KC March Show appeared to be a significant success based upon attendance and follow-on comments by vendors, etc. (Association final report is forthcoming). We thank all our club members who participated in the organization, set up and performance of the event, and feel we met and exceeded our anticipated responsibility/share of the effort on behalf of the Association. Also thank you to our club members who placed display cases in the show (which in addition to positively displaying interests and abilities of our members, also benefits the club financially via Association contribution). As a side note, I learned at the RMFMS convention that at least one RMFMS officer attended our show — to overwhelming positive observations.

On April 8 we will lead/participate in a field trip — that being a selenite crystal dig at the Salt Flats National Wildlife Refuge site near Jet, OK. I will separately poll members for interest/confirmation of intent to participate in this event. To date several (including some Topeka club members — and maybe a McPherson club

member) have indicated they will participate. Down the road, we will be invited by the Topeka club to join them in a visit to the Hutchison underground salt mines.

In May, in accordance with our Bylaws, we will hold nominations/elections for club officers for the 2017-2018 operating year. Individuals interested in serving and growing the club as an officer (or various committee positions) are encouraged to express their desire at this time.

Looking forward —

April 8 -- Selenite crystal collecting on the Salt Plains N.W.R. near Jet, OK.

April 15 — Additional selenite crystal collecting (with club member Deb Bryant).

Apr. 21-23 — Wichita G&M show

May 5-7 — McPherson G&M show

M John Robinson is working on arrangements to go to the Mozarkite site this spring (maybe May). More on this later.

Possible field trip to Troy, KS (NE KS) by Larry Wells
Annual picnic Sat. June 3, 2017. Lone Elm Park, Olathe, KS; 3-9pm.

Oct. 14-15 — Topeka G&M show

And, finally, the Topeka Gem & Mineral club has invited us to participate in their field trips (about 7-9/year). More on this later as trips are planned.

Happy rock hounding — and related activities!
Norm Onnen

**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM
CHAIRMAN**

Program for April Meeting

Our April 4 club meeting will feature Dr. David Burnham who will present his efforts and direction of KU involvement of a significant T-Rex dig in Montana. (Dr. Burnham presented twice at the March show). Please feel free to invite family, friends, etc. to this important presentation.

Larry Wells

CLUB WEBSITE

The website is in the process of being updated. It is still in creation mode, but a rudimentary version is available and will be continually updated as we go forward using a new web site software package.

www.olathegemclub.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2016-2017:

Refreshments: To be determined.

Raffle: Keith Shaw and Brian Simmons

Association Delegates: Tom Lorenz & Norman Onnen

Alternate Association Delegates: Larry Wells

Field Trips: Earl Newland

Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen

Programs: Larry Wells

Membership: M John Robinson

Bulletin Editor: M John Robinson

Show Chairman: Tom Lorenz

Webmaster: M John Robinson

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The current membership information is contained on a separate attachment. We now have 44 members. Please provide the membership chairman with any updates or corrections. Please welcome Gary Thompson who joined the club during our March meeting!