



**OLATHE
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY BULLETIN
May 2, 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:

Our official club website (olathegemclub.com) has been in the process of being re-formatted and upgraded. Please visit the site and let us know what you think — including items you’d like to see there (as well as in our Bulletins). We will endeavor to keep this site up to date and accurate on a monthly basis as it represents current club information and scheduled activities to our members (and others who are intent in learning more about us and potentially joining/contributing to our group interests and enjoyment.) Recent additions to the site include photos of our display cases at the March 2017 gem and mineral show, a calendar of events, posting of the club Bylaws, a listing of the club library holdings, and links (including RMFMS and AFMS), among other items. One area of note is the posting of club and Board minutes for review/comment. (The Board earlier this year decided to post these minutes on our website so as to save the time/effort of reading them during our club meetings. Members are encouraged to review them and offer corrections if/when appropriate).

For those who have in the past visited the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) website and viewed the link to our club, please be aware that the incorrect/hacked link has been removed and our correct link is now active.

Also please be aware of, and feel free to visit us on Facebook. Club member Deb Bryant administrates this site and will be able to welcome each of you who wish to join/contribute.

On Sat., April 8 we led a group field trip to the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge near Jet, Oklahoma — this being the second weekend the selenite collecting area was open for the season. (The area is closed each year from Oct. 16 to March 31 to accommodate and protect migrating whooping cranes, sandhill cranes, and other birds). April 8 was a perfect day for digging and collecting with partly cloudy skies to keep the temperature down (in the low 70's), and with just enough breeze to help with the temps and insects which are a problem later on in the season. We were joined by individuals from the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Barbara Crompton's friends from OK, and a couple from Los Alamos, NM. (In addition to about 100+/- others, which was no problem as the collecting site is large and unencumbered). Comments included "we had a blast" to "we can't wait to do this again". I'm ready to go back (probably early Oct. - but certainly on or just after Sunday, April 1, 2018 — the first day of next year's season). Great selenite crystals and experience!

Watch our calendar for additional exciting field trips which tentatively include access to a specific JOCO quarry (fossils), Troy, KS (private property quarries, fossils, glacial till), Morzarkite dig (private property near Camp Point, MO), joint visit with the Topeka G&M Society to the Hutchison Salt Mine, Geode Day's in Sept. (Hamilton, IL) — and for picnics (our annual club picnic June 3, and the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater KC picnic in Aug.)

Our thanks again to Dr. David Burnham for his April 4 very informative and enjoyable T. Rex presentation — and thanks to all who braved the bad weather that night to attend. Dr.

Burnham experienced some difficulty returning to KU that evening, and sent a message that “the weather was terrible but the event went very well (our presentation) and it’s good to be around natural history buffs.” While he did not market the KU T. Rex dig efforts, we are aware that this is not funded by the state or the University (however each will clearly benefit from the results), but funds are being collected via “Crowdfunding”. For those interested (it is non-profit and tax deductible) I will have info at our May club meeting.

Coming up August 26, 2017, the Museum at Prairiefire will host “Night at the Museum” — a benefit for the Museum and KC Urban Advantage (youth science initiative) which helps bring more than 3,000 low-income students to the Museum. This is a tax deductible charity event. (Separately, the current exhibit at the facility is the American Museum of Natural History rotating exhibit “The World’s Largest Dinosaurs” through Sept. 24).

Also, coming up—

McPherson KS Gem & Mineral Club 25th Annual Show and Sale, (Free admission), May 5-7, 2017; 4-H Building and Grounds; 710 W. Woodside; McPherson, KS 67460.

(Joplin, MO) Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show, (Free admission), May 19-21, 2017; Joplin Museum; 504 Schiffedecker Ave., Joplin, MO.

Our annual picnic, June 3, 2017, Lone Elm Park, Olathe, KS, 3 PM +.

We hope to see each of you at the May 2 club meeting. Remember annual dues will be collected by Treasurer Barbara Crompton at this meeting.

Norm Onnen

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Program for May 2 Meeting

Our May presentation will be presented by Don Smith, BS, MS. It will be a slide show entitled “Critters that can ruin your day.” “Watch where you step, sit, and don’t put your hands under that rock...”

Also please come prepared to pay your dues at this meeting and please be prepared to sign up on the sheet to be provided for the picnic, indicating whether you will be attending, how many will be in your party and what type of dish you will be bringing.

We will get more information out prior to the picnic on June 3, with a map, info on the food, and info on the silent auction.

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 46 members. Please provide the membership chairman with any updates or corrections. Please welcome Nate Brame who joined the club during our April meeting!