



**OLATHE
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY BULLETIN
August, 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 2017-2018

President: Larry Wells - (913) 787-5138
Vice President: Deborah Bryant – (816) 337-1527
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
& Spring Wittmeier – (913) 945-0878
Membership Chairman M John Robinson– (913) 669-8284

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

Parkvilla northcutti??????? A rather recent fossil find at Park University (Parkville, MO) by Tim Northcutt has been identified by a KU paleobotanist as a previously unknown seed fern that is 306 million years old. The unique plant fossil, complete with finely detailed pollen organs and carbonization, has been formally named Parkvilla northcutti in honor of the person discovering it. An article concerning the find was published in the November 2016 Review of Paleobotany and Palynology (entitled A New Pennsylvanian Pollen Organ From Northwestern Missouri With Affinities in the Lyginopteridales). Also, an article concerning this find was in the KC Star on Thursday, July 20. Now, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at the National Archives (next to Union Station), there will be free forum discussing the fossil, and why such discoveries are important.

The Greater Kansas City Association of Earth Science Clubs (to which we belong as a part of the annual March G&M show) is having their annual picnic Sunday, Aug. 27 at Antioch Park in OP, KS. Let’s try to have good representation at this event this year. Below are the details —

Association pot luck picnic, swap-n-shop, and auction is Sunday, August 27, 6501 Antioch Road, Antioch Park, Merriam, KS, in Shelter House #3. Swap-n-shop, will begin setting up anytime after 8:00 AM. Lunch will be around 12:00 or 12:30 PM. Meat, drinks, condiments, and service provided. Please bring a vegetable or salad, dessert, a chair, and an auction item. The auction will take place after lunch. Proceeds will go to the scholarship fund of the Association to be presented to students in March at the Gem & Mineral Show. Plan on being there! It is a great time to get to know some other members from the other clubs that help put on the Gem & Mineral Show in March. Please join us!

The upcoming total solar eclipse will occur Monday, Aug. 21, 2017 (mistakenly reported in the July Bulletin as Aug. 17. SORRY!). The prime U. S. location to see the total eclipse is on a line between St. Joseph and Lathrop, MO. Check local news for the exact time — AND OBTAIN THE SPECIAL GLASSES WITH WHICH TO OBSERVE THIS EVENT. DO NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT IT WITHOUT PROTECTION. The inexpensive glasses are available at several stores and on line.

Field trips. Are they popular and/or important to our members? The positive numbers speak for themselves. At the 6/4/17 Mozarkite site — 13 participants; at the 6/11/17 Troy, KS site — 10 participants; at the 6/24/17 Troy, KS site — 10 participants; and at the 7/15/17 Louisburg, KS/APAC site — 10 participants. These, in addition to several independent collecting trips, indicate very viable interest in this activity as a part of our club functions. Please convey ideas to our Board as to sites

and related events we can organize and schedule going forward.

The OGMS is a member of the RMFMS. Word has been received that Liz Thomas (formerly VP) has assumed the role of 2017-2018 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) President in place of Beth Simmons, who has resigned. There is presently no indication of impact on the RMFMS 2018 annual conference (which was tentatively planned to be held in Fairplay, CO), as Ms. Simmons was leading the effort to place the event there in August or Sept. It may be assumed that the conference will still occur in CO as Ms. Thomas is also from the CO clubs that were supporting that location. More on this later.

Looking forward to seeing each of you and hearing of your summer adventures — if not at the Assoc. picnic, then certainly at the Sept. 5 club meeting.

Norm Onnen

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

To maximize your experience and information we would like Club Members interested in doing a "Show and Tell" of their summer 2017 outings at the September meeting. To get scheduled please email our new V.P. Deborah Bryant at: MotoChef1@outlook.com Please include how much time you will need for your presentation. She may also be reached on her cell 816-337-1527. Also, if you have suggestions/request for types of club presentations please let Deborah know.

Tom Tivol will be the guest speaker at our September 5th and October 3rd meetings so you won't want to miss them! Tom's presentations are outstanding. He will have a overhead slide presentation covering "The Evolution of Jewelry Design Part One and Part Two". This is one of the classes Tom teaches at KU over a 4 semester time frame.

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 2017-2018:

Refreshments: To be determined.

Raffle: Keith Shaw and Brian Simmons

Association Delegates: Tom Lorenz & Norman Onnen

Alternate Association Delegates: Larry Wells

Field Trips: Various

Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen

Programs: Deborah Bryant

Membership: M John Robinson

Bulletin Editor: M John Robinson

Show Chairman: Tom Lorenz

Webmasters: M John Robinson and Spring Wittmeir

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The current membership information is contained on a separate attachment. We now have 50 members but only 30 paid members. Please note your dues will be delinquent after the September meeting and if not paid then you will be dropped from the membership list. Please provide the membership chairman with any updates or corrections. Please welcome Nate Brame who joined the club during our April meeting!