



**OLATHE
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
MONTHLY BULLETIN
July, 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:

Busy, busy June. We hope all are enjoying spring/summer vacation adventures and come back with multitudes of gems, minerals and fossils — and corresponding tales to share at our late summer/fall meetings.

June started out with a successful club picnic (Sat., June 3) accompanied by great weather and our traditional silent auction. Thanks for all who were able to participate and make it another positive event. I’ve received several favorable comments on the venue location, food, and companionship, and will welcome any additional thoughts going forward.

Next we had about 13 members attend the June 4 Mozarkite dig near Cole Camp, MO. Again the weather cooperated and the collecting site was dry and easy to maneuver around. Lots of good material was collected (including a few unwanted ticks, which are prevalent this year), and we look forward to seeing the results of individual efforts at an upcoming club meeting. I’m asking for attendees (of this and the previous reconnaissance trip) to bring examples of their finds to compare at our Sept. meeting. Thanks to M. John

Robinson for arranging this event.

Then on Sat., June 24 ten members individuals traveled to the Whetstine Rock Quarries at Troy, KS. Another good day in the field and lots of fossiliferous materials, pyrite, etc. were brought back. (Still to be determined as to the success of Larry and the gold panning/recovery efforts — but we know he tried and we have pictures to prove it). I'm asking for attendees (of this and the previous reconnaissance trip) to bring examples of their finds to compare at our Sept. 5 meeting. Thanks to Larry Wells for arranging this event.

Concerning our T. rex presentation this past spring, I am getting reports from Dr. Burnham that they arrived at the dig site three weeks ago, and volunteers (even some whole families) are arriving weekly to help with the efforts. All seem to be having a positive experience — which apparently is helped by cooler temperatures so far this year. I believe the dig efforts this year will last another six or seven weeks, and we look forward to having a progress report this fall. Thanks are conveyed to all who contributed to the tax exempt support of this important dig.

Mike Purduski reminds us of the upcoming Aug. 17, 2017 total solar eclipse — which by chance will be most completely visible in a path (NW thru SE) in and near St. Joseph and surrounding communities (but, will be readily visible in KC, so no need to travel far to see it.) On line it is stated that St. Joseph “...is right on the centerline of the eclipse path and enjoys one of the longest durations in the nation.” The peak eclipse time is 1:06 PM CDT. WARNING, WARNING, WARNING do not look directly at the eclipse — which would result in

severe eye/sight damage. Inexpensive solar glasses are available online (for as little as \$0.77) and there are some reports that WalMart is selling such glasses.

Upcoming —

**Association of Earth Science Clubs annual picnic;
Antioch Park; OPKS; August 27, 2017**

**Topeka Gem & Mineral Society 61st Annual Show; Ag
Hall; Topeka, KS; Oct. 14-15, 2017. (Theme - “Of Quartz
It Is”.)**

**Again, hope all are having a great vacation and we look
eagerly forward to seeing/hearing from you in
September.**

Norm Onnen

**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROGRAM
CHAIRMAN**

Programs for September Meeting and Following

**We are still lining up programs for the September and
following meetings. Any suggestions would be greatly
appreciated by our new Vice President and Program
Chairman, Deborah Bryant.**

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 46 members but only 24 paid members. Please note your dues will be delinquent by the September meeting. Please provide the membership chairman with any updates or corrections. Please welcome Nate Brame who joined the club during our April meeting!