



# OLATHE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

## MONTHLY BULLETIN

December 1, 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 Clubs annual holiday party is in December, and the annual picnic is during the summer. Visitors are always welcome.

The meetings are at the Indian Creek Community Church, 12480 Black Bob Road in Olathe, Kansas. We meet downstairs in room 018 which is located at the bottom of the staircase, 6:30 to 7 PM is not structured, as members fellowship and have a raffle. At the end of the raffle anyone who purchased tickets - and did not win anything - can go take one item from the table. The meeting starts at approximately 7 PM followed by the guest speaker.

**DUES:** \$10.00 per year for individuals / \$5.00 per year for minors / children under the age of 12 are free.

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

**OFFICERS 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:     | Dan McDaniel     | (913) 963-5357 |
| Membership Chairman | M John Robinson  |                |

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** The meeting for December will be our Christmas Party. The next club meeting will be the January meeting on the first Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

As of Nov. 2017 our past president Norm Onnen is on staff as a volunteer fossil preparer in the Dino Laboratory at Science City located in Union Station Kansas City, Missouri. Science City is a fun and educational experience for all ages!

This summer our past President Norm Onnen recently coordinated a Club outing at a Louisburg, Kansas quarry. During this outing Norm discovered a rock containing a malachite crystal! This discovery is extremely rare for this part of the country. Check out the pictures in the gallery on our website.

Also, Bev and I have several beautiful rescued cats that are looking for a good home with lots of love!!!

**VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** The guest speaker at our November 7th meeting was Carli Atlakson who spoke about legality and preservation of artifacts, and protecting our natural heritage sites for the future. Carli graduated with a BA in anthropology from KU and went on to earn an MSc degree in Archaeology of the North from the University of Aberdeen in

Scotland. Her field work includes surveying in Kansas, soil typing and site morphology near Aberdeen (The Granite City) Scotland, and excavation at the James Madison estate in Virginia. Thank you Carli!

We are also in need of a speaker for the January show so if you have any ideas please let Deborah Bryant know.

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY:** Reservations are complete for the OGMS Christmas event on Saturday Dec. 2, 2017 at HyVee, 18101 W. 119th St. (west of 119<sup>th</sup> and I-35) Olathe, KS 66061. The HyVee party room is located on the 2nd floor. The staircase is just inside the very east set of doors. If you don't see it just ask an employee. Our party starts at 5:30 p.m. with the gift exchange followed by our catered meal at 7 p.m., and ends at 10 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per person, the Club picks up the remaining tab. If you want to participate in the gift exchange bring a present of \$10.00 or less. Our Dec Board Meeting was the deadline and Norm Onnen made reservations for 40 participants. We had some cancellations so we have openings for up to 5 more participants, so if you can come please call Deborah Bryant to let her know. Keith Shaw will bring the tickets for the Gift Exchange.

**SKILLS & INTEREST DIRECTORY:** We need your picture for the Talents/Skills and Interest Directory. We want to have every ones picture asap so Julie Robinson can finish the Directory ASAP. If we don't have your picture already, please text your picture to Julie Robinson's cell phone (816) 797-4602, and be sure to include your name in the text! Or, email your picture to Julie at: [jukay11@gmail.com](mailto:jukay11@gmail.com)

You can list your talents and skills to offer other members who need help or additional information. And, we are adding another topic "Interested in Learning", which will be very helpful in setting up the programs for future meetings. I think you will all

really appreciate the Directory when it is finished. If you have a personal request or need help, please feel free to call Julie directly and she will be happy to assist you. Let's make this happen so we can all benefit from the Directory

**March 9-11, 2018 GEM AND MINERAL SHOW:** Discount tickets are available for the March show at every Club meeting. This show is sponsored by our local Association. More information forthcoming regarding help to set up and take down tables & booths, taking tickets at the door, and providing lunch for the vendors, etc. Also, our Olathe Club will be displaying our cases for the public to view. Larry Wells is the point of contact for Club members interested in selling items at the show, and Norm Onnen is the point of contact for all other questions. People manning the booths will get a badge permitting free access. We are looking for a volunteer to be the Show Person Chair to replace Tom Lorenz who has had to resign this position due to illness. Larry Wells' cell: (913) 787-5138. Norm Onnen cell: (816) 645-1333, home (816) 331-4862.

**LAKE SUPERIOR AGATES TO BE DISPLAYED:** From Norm Onnen, Past President.

As the Olathe Gem and Mineral Society is a member of the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City (the Assoc. responsible for the annual March KC Gem and Mineral Show), we are pleased to announce the tentative agreement that a portion of the Bill Boltz spectacular and extensive Lake Superior agate collection will be displayed at the March 9-11, 2018 show in Kansas City.

Now deceased, Bill Boltz was a Topeka contractor involved in construction of many homes in and around Topeka from which he found numerous (some quite large) Lake Superior agates, deposited in the terminus margin of the Pleistocene era Kansan glacier. Upon Mr. Boltz passing, approximately 1/3 of his

collection was retained by the family, 1/3 went to the Moose Lake Agate and Geological Interpretation Center (in Moose Lake State Park, Moose Lake, MN), and 1/3 is maintained at Washburn University. This later collection is the source of the items to be displayed at our March 2018 show (and were exhibited at the recently completed Topeka Gem and Mineral show).

As a side note, the Moose Lake collection is on permanent display in the state park facility - this being on I-35 between Minneapolis and Duluth, MN. The community of Moose Lake hosts Lake Superior Agate Days one weekend each July. (This is a huge event with truckloads of glacial gravel containing agates, etc. spread along the main street for a kids scramble, and public access to numerous collecting sites normally not accessible). Also, presently an individual has been selected to cut and face polish a massive 16 pound agate from the Boltz collection. It will be of great interest to see the end result of this effort (hopefully in time for our March show?).

For those interested in glaciers, the Kansan glacier was the most recent of four and extended further south than the preceding Pleistocene glaciers (the Nebraskan, Illinoian and Wisconsin glaciers). In addition to the Lake Superior agates, the Kansan glacier carried and deposited metamorphosed volcanics (greenstone, from the Canadian Shield), Sioux quartzite (from SW MN/eastern SD), hematite iron ore (from the iron ranges of MN and the Keewanawan volcanics of MN, WI, and MI), and fossils.

**SHOW & TELL:** Club Members interested in doing a Show and Tell should contact Deborah Bryant, VP to get scheduled. Please include how much time you will need for your presentation. Deborah's contact info is: MotoChef1@outlook.com, or her cell (816) 337-1527.

**CLUB WEBSITE:** Join me in welcoming Dan McDaniel as our

new web-master. We are very fortunate to have Dan onboard because he has an extensive professional background in both computer programming and main frames. Our website is still in creation mode: [www.olathegemclub.com](http://www.olathegemclub.com). However, with Dan's expertise we will have an attractive web site with links to other important sites which will increase our Club's exposure and membership.

### **POSITION VACANT - FIELD TRIP & OUTINGS CHAIRPERSON**

We are still in need of one or more individuals to plan and coordinate Club outings for rock digs, fossil hunting, gold panning, etc. This may involve attending monthly executive board meetings (only when necessary), writing announcements for the monthly bulletin, coordinating and emailing information and updates to the members.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2017-2018:**

Refreshments: January Mike Purduski and Deb Bryant, VP

Raffle: Keith Shaw and Brian Simmons

Association Delegates: Tom Lorenz & Norman Onnen

Alternate Association Delegates: Larry Wells, President

Field Trips: Vacant position

Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen

Programs: Deborah Bryant, VP

Membership: M John Robinson

Bulletin Editor: M John Robinson

Show Chairman: Vacant

Webmaster: Dan McDaniel

**MEMBERSHIP LIST:** The current membership information is contained on a separate attachment

