



January 2019 MONTHLY BULLETIN

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

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 in June which includes a silent auction. 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 member's 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 7 PM followed by the guest speaker. Information is available at our website: olathegemclub.com.

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 September meeting)

OFFICERS and CHAIRPERSONS 2018 – 2019:

President: Deborah Bryant (816)337-1527

Vice President: Tammy Shaw (816)674-1368

Secretary: Vikki Ritter (913)827-2724

Treasurer: Barbara Crompton (913)492-6783

Bulletin: M John Robinson (913)669-8284

Website and Editor: Dan McDaniel (913)963-5357

Membership Chairman: M John Robinson (913)669-8284

Field Trip Coordinator: Lesilee Hartman (785)380-6016;

Field Trip Assistant: Larry Wells (913)787-5138

Programs: Tammy Shaw, VP

Librarian and Historian: Norman Onnen (816)645-1333

Gem Show Chairman: Norman Onnen

Raffle: Lisa Hulbert

Association Delegates: Norman Onnen & Larry Wells

Alternate Assoc. Delegate: Deb Bryant, **one open position. If you want to learn how our club works this is a great way to get started!**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Members are encouraged to bring ideas to the table! If you have an idea for a meeting topic or field trip or presenter please share! We need everyone to participate if we are going to have a successful club!

Because the Club is growing in membership we will be having 3 people, instead of two, bringing snacks in the future to make it more affordable. There are just a couple spots left if you can help out! ***Looking for one more person for our Jan 8th meeting!***

We have **15 new members!** Please introduce yourself if you see a new face! Julie will be getting updates to the member directory soon!

Our Holiday Party was a great success! Thanks for all who could make it!

January meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th, pushed back one week to observe New Years Day.

Congrats to Norm Onnen! He has accepted the position of Vice President of the Association!

We have invited our RMFMS Kansas Representative to visit our club in April 2019!

March is our Clubs Gem show! We participate with other area clubs to put on the spring show at KCI. More info on this at the meeting! Be ready to volunteer with us to make it the best show yet!

Be ready for some sweet OGMS gear!

VICE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE /Programs

Don't forget the Swap & Shop during our February 5 2019 meeting. Bring any gems, minerals, stones, jewelry, tools, or related items to sell or trade. Keep in mind space will be

limited, and we want to make room for everyone. All transactions will be the responsibility of the participating parties. If the event goes well, we are considering a community wide event later in the spring, and will be inviting other clubs and the public.

Here is the info for the January presentation:
(These folks come to us from St. Joseph)

I'm Monta Miller and I'm from Kentucky. My husband Greg is from Nebraska. His grandfather was a geologist and used to rockhound in the Petrified Forest. The collection mostly belongs to him. We've been together 18 years and most of what we've collected together has come from Johnson County. He has taught me everything I know about rocks but he will have to work and will miss the meeting. I can bring in some slabs. I have mineral specimens and a lot of rough pieces. We've tons of rocks in our collection. And we've researched the American Indian culture in the area also collecting many artifacts and learning the art of arrowhead making.

FIELD TRIPS

12 OGMS members took a trip on Saturday, October 27 to Whetrock Quarries in Atchison, KS. We found a piece of belemnite, cone-in-cone, ammonite, pyrite, clams, petrified wood, and much more.

As the weather is unpredictable, the field trip to the Whetrock Quarries in Murray, NE 16 miles above Nebraska City, NE will continue to be postponed until the weather starts to get better so please watch for updates on Facebook and in emails.

The field trip to the KU Museum for a tour with DR Burnham is still postponed until another date comes available. Please continue watching for updates.

Anyone with suggestions please contact Lesilee Hartman to get it scheduled!

CLUB LIBRARIAN, NORM'S MESSAGE: Members are reminded that the club library is being maintained, and the holdings are listed on the club website. As requests for items are made they are brought to the next club event. Club members who have materials checked out are requested to return these items and/or re-new their interest in keeping them for an extended time. For more information call Norm at (816) 645-1333.

Please note that the listing of documents held in the club library has been updated and posted to our club website effective 11/12/18. It includes all items recently donated by several club members. That being said, there's still room in the library if others wish to provide and/or donate to the library. Also if there are documents you feel should be in the library for the benefit of our members, please let me know of them.

Interestingly, some of the recently donated items were century old Smithsonian Institution Annual reports (as early as 1898). It appears at that time that all research papers, reports, etc. (perhaps in lieu of publishing a monthly magazine) were bound into the Annual report — making these bound documents several hundred pages long. At the last club meeting (Nov. 6) I displayed the table of contents of these Annual reports on a side table, and a few were able to view them. I will bring these to

our Jan. meeting once more for those interested. Some of the included reports were about diamonds, volcanoes, plate tectonics, mammoth ivory, the AZ Petrified Forest, an iron mine near Leslie, MO, gold in science, glacial and postglacial lakes in the Lake Superior region, evolution, etc. As some of these precede currently understood facts (plate tectonics, evolution, etc.) they offer interesting history insights.

Official Magazine

The official magazine of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is Rock & Gem (a monthly publication). As such, and apparently by default as the Olathe Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the RMFMS, the magazine might be considered the official publication of our club. The magazine a couple of years ago underwent new ownership (now Beckett Media), however maintained and embellished the excellent contributing editorial and article cadre (headed by highly respected and experienced Bob Jones). The Dec. 2018 issue of the publication reveals the broad range of topics typically covered and of interest to most. Included is Wulfenite, a Glyptic artist, the Rio Grande rift, Sphalerite, Blue Opal, Russia's Lapidary Wealth, and regular columns. Turns out the magazine is currently offering a reduced subscription rate of 2-years for \$49.95 (only \$2.08 per issue) - a great value considering the content).

Volcanoes in the US

The editor of Rock & Gem magazine, in Oct. 2018, participated via teleconference in the USGS 2018 Volcanic Threat Assessment and learned interesting facts regarding volcanoes in the United States, as well as throughout the world. Turns out there are currently 161 known active volcanoes in the US (led by the most active - Kilauea, and 86 are in Alaska). Also 120 eruptions have occurred since 1980, and 10% of the 1,500 worldwide volcano eruptions in the past 10,000 years have occurred in the US. Of the 161 current US volcanoes, 57 are considered to be "high threat" and "very high threat". The threats are determined not by the potential of erupting, but by the damage they would be expected to cause. (Interestingly, Yellowstone (variously described by many as the most dangerous hot spot in the world) is not placed in the evaluation category (presumably as it is considered a caldera rather than a current volcano)). The USGS report is currently online and contains interesting maps of the US locations and threat categories.

SKILLS & INTEREST DIRECTORY: To keep your directories current you can plan on receiving future updates via email. For changes, and directory updates contact Julie Robinson at (816) 797-4602, or jukay11@gmail.com. New members will receive a directory as they join.

SHOW & TELL: Members interested in doing a Show & Tell should contact Deborah Bryant, President, to get scheduled. Deborah's contact info is MotoChef1@outlook.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

January meeting is set for Tuesday January 8th.

February is our club swap and shop. See VP message for details

March 8th, 9th, 10th! Gem Show at KCI Expo Center!

Physical Properties of Minerals

<http://geokansas.ku.edu/minerals-kansas>

Minerals can be identified by physical properties, including

Color is consistent in a few minerals, such as gold, which is always yellow. Other minerals come in many different colors due to small variations in chemistry. Quartz, for example, can be clear, white, pink, purple, yellow, or smoky brown.

Luster is how a mineral looks in reflected light. Some minerals are shiny while others are dull. Common mineral lusters are metallic, glassy, silky, pearly, and chalky.

Cleavage is the tendency of some minerals to break along flat surfaces. Mica breaks apart in thin sheets. Calcite breaks in a rhombic shape (like a distorted, or squashed, cube). Halite breaks into cubes. Not all minerals have strong cleavage.

Hardness is determined by the resistance of a mineral to scratching. The Moh's Scale of Hardness (named after the man who established it) lists minerals from 1 (softest) to 10 (hardest). A mineral of a higher hardness will scratch a softer mineral. You can test a mineral's hardness on everyday items such as a fingernail (hardness = 2.5), a copper penny (hardness = 3), and a glass plate or steel knife (hardness = 5.5). Calcite, which has a hardness of 3, will scratch your fingernail but not a glass plate. Quartz, with a hardness of 7, will scratch both.

The following minerals range in hardness from 1 to 10:

Talc
Gypsum
Calcite
Fluorite
Apatite
Feldspar
Quartz
Topaz
Corundum
Diamond

Streak is the mark some minerals leave on an unglazed porcelain plate. Minerals with a hardness of less than about 7 will leave a streak on the plate. The color of a streak, which can be a different color than the mineral, helps identify the mineral. Galena, which is lead gray, leaves a lead gray to black streak. Hematite, an iron ore mineral that may be black or gray, leaves a reddish brown streak.

Specific gravity is a measure of the density of a mineral. You can make a rough comparison of the specific gravity of two minerals by testing how heavy a piece of one of the minerals feels compared to a similarly sized piece of the other. For example, if you held a piece of quartz (specific gravity of 5.26) in one hand and a piece of hematite (specific gravity of 2.65) in the other hand, the quartz would feel about twice as heavy as the hematite.

Amount of transparency depends on how much light can pass through a mineral. If light can pass through and you can see through the mineral to objects on the other side, the mineral is transparent. If light can pass through but you can't see through it, the mineral is translucent. If light can't pass through, the mineral is opaque.