



JANUARY 2020 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 on the lower level in room **018**. 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 2019 – 2020:

President: Norman Onnen (816)645-1333

Vice President: Lisa Hulbert (913)223-1028

Secretary: Marsha Duby (816)588-1118

Treasurer: Barbara Crompton (913)492-6783

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

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

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

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

Programs: Lisa Hulbert, VP

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

Gem Show Chairman: Norman Onnen

Raffle: Lisa Hulbert

Association Delegates: Norman Onnen & Chet McLaughlin

Alternate Assoc. Delegate: Vicky Ritter & one vacancy(TBD)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

2020

Welcome to the next decade (some would tout it to be a new beginning as we can then see “2020” — a bad joke). Anyway, being essentially snowed in, this is a great time to spend considerable time in our respective shops, organizing, labeling, designing and fabricating our pieces of gem and mineral art, planning the next field trip, etc. — something we easily put off when the days and weather were more agreeable.

Looking forward, our major event will be the 2020 March gem and mineral show. At this show we will strive to maximize the number of display cases we place. This is an excellent opportunity to exhibit our gem and mineral related interests, knowledge, capabilities — and to promote our club. For that show we will be seeking club volunteers to assist in set ups, admissions, auctions, and the Association booth sales. Please consider, and volunteer to help in these categories for specific times over the three days.

Also, in this coming year we will continue to have relevant presentations at our monthly club meetings, organize several area field trips, and for the first time host an outdoor sales event in Olathe (in May). Watch for developing details.

Holiday Party

Our club hosted another well attended holiday party on Sat., Dec. 7, 2019 at the 119th and Ridgeview HyVee in Olathe, KS. This continues to be a very popular event for our club and we look forward to continuing the gatherings. Thanks for all who participated, the good food, and fun in sharing/trading gifts. As the venue and catered food is convenient, it is recognized that space is a consideration, particularly with our growing membership. Should anyone have thoughts for our future holiday parties, please convey them to our club officers.

(For those filling their 2020 calendars, please note that the club will host our annual summer picnic on Sat., June 6, 2020 — again at Kill Creek Park in Olathe).

Tom Lorenz Update

Telephone conversations with Tom reveals he continues to recover at home, has visit therapy sessions and works on rocks occasionally in his shop. Tom wanted to attend the holiday party and had to forego that while regaining his strength after being discharged from St. Luke's South. Currently he welcomes calls from friends however he is not having visitors for now. We wish Tom well and trust he will follow Doctor's guidance in recovery.

VICE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

January Presentation

"To Piezo or not to Piezo?" That is the question. Tom Tivol and Larry Wells will be discussing the effects of Piezoelectricity and Refractive Index, their determination, why they are important, and what they are used for. Tom and Larry will describe and demonstrate numerous tools for both.

GENERAL MEETING:

Returning to Room 018

Just a reminder that the General Club meeting has returned to room 018.

LIBRARY:

Library audit

Thanks to all who responded to the yearend library audit. Checked out items have been extended to those who requested this. All holdings are accounted for with the exception of Oceans of Kansas by Michael J. Everhart (which has been missing for over four years). Should that book be needed I am aware that the Olathe Library has this in their inventory.

Norm Onnen

SPRING TENT SALE

Tammy Shaw is making plans for a spring tent sale in May. Spaces will be available for a fee for you to sell your gem and mineral related items to members, other clubs, and the public. Stay tuned for details.

FIELD TRIPS

Spring 2020

Norm is pursuing another trip to the Hamm quarry in Louisburg, KS this Spring.

Leslie has identified the following fieldtrips for the coming year:

Whetrock Quarry, Troy, KS

Mozarkite Trip

NELSON QUARRY WAVERLY, KS

HAMM Nebraska

Watch for future updates.

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Club Gold Panners — and Malachite — and Linda Hall Library

For those gold panners in the club, the current (Jan. 2020) Rock & Gem magazine is featuring the first of a three-part series on gold by Bob Jones. Part I entitled "Famous Gold, Exploring the Harvard Collection" is the current piece, followed by Part II in the Feb, issue (Australian discovery), and part III in the March issue (Denver Museum collections). Of particular interest is the reference to the crystallized gold which was collected from the "Wire Patch" on Farncomb Hill, Breckenridge, Colorado (this being on exhibit in Denver). Also, there is suggestion that some of the "Father's Day" gold from Australia may be exhibited this year at the Tucson Gem and Mineral show in Feb. 2020.

As for Malachite, the current issue of Rock & Gem has a related article (also by Bob Jones) and has photograph of a Russian created malachite vase (a tazza which is defined as a shallow cup or vase on a pedestal). This brings to mind the Kansas City Linda Hall Library tazza (see a previous club Bulletin), which all members should strive to see. The Linda Hall version (approximately 6' tall) has a long generally accepted history. It is believed that it was sculpted in Russia before 1850 and was in place at the London Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1851. Fast forward to 1910 when August Heckscher, a German/American businessman and philanthropist, visited Russia in 1910 and had an audience with Czar Nicholas II, at which time the Czar gave Heckscher a monumental tazza (believed to be the same tazza). In 1920 the Heckscher Museum of Art was established in his adopted home town of Huntington, Long Island, New York. The tazza most likely resided in Mr. Heckscher's home and/or in the Museum. At some point the tazza was removed from the control of the Heckscher estate and/or the Museum control and was discovered by Ms. Hellen Spenser for sale probably in California. Ms. Spenser purchased the tazza and donated it to the Linda Hall Library where it resides to this day, a true treasure.

How it left Long Island is currently unknown, however the Heckscher Museum as recent as 2008 was embroiled in community controversy when it was discovered they were attempting to sell some of their holdings (including the famous 1926 "Eclipse of the Sun" painting by George Grosz. Caught in the act by outraged art lovers, the Museum reversed the process and the painting, as well as other valuable items, remains in the Museum as if nothing ever happened. It is not revealed if the tazza (and/or other unidentified items) was the victim of suspicious disposal. Such as it is the tazza is a welcome addition to the KC area.

Norm Onnen

Humor – or semblance thereof:

"I'm allergic to rocks hitting me in the face." — Mike Rowe

Novice Rockhound: "If it weren't for Leaverite, I'd have no rocks at all." — Dan McDaniel

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13, 14, 15, 2020

The 59th Annual GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Will be held at The KCI Expo

11730 NW Ambassador Dr., KCMO 64153

June 6, 2020

OGMS Picnic – Kill Creek Park