



## **FEBRUARY 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](http://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:**

Thanks to Tom Tivol and Larry Wells for the Piezo presentation at our Jan. club meeting. So much of this field has to do with quartz properties which until WWII were so little understood. Our government had a great need for quality quartz during the war effort, and early supplies were satisfied from Arkansas. Not able to meet the demand, later specimens were obtained in significant quantities from Brazil. So great was the need, that collectors from that country accumulated and sent any clear stones found to the U.S. At the end of the war effort, synthetic advances, and reduced need for native quartz, the government made tons of imported quartz available to the highest bidders. As it turns out some of the material was topaz, and was a wind fall for successful bidders. (Side note: Quartz crystals are either left or right handed, something most hobbyists are unable to discern).

Also thank you to visitors Dan and Connie Snow (from the Show Me Club) for accommodating my request to display their new discovery of "melonite" (their adopted name), a fluorescent calcite at our Jan. meeting. This new material was discovered in the Buffalo Gap National Grassland (NW Nebraska) this past summer, and is drawing a lot of attention. Dan and Connie displayed their fluorescent collection at the March 2019 KC Gem and Mineral show, and have graciously agreed to do so again at the next show.

### **OGMS May Outdoor Sales Event**

The proposed May 16, 2020 Olathe outdoor sales event has been cancelled for the time being considering the various city requirements, arrangements, permits, etc. that need to be addressed. Further efforts will be looked at in hopes of having this event at a later time. It is understood there are several club members interested in participating in such a sales show.

### **KC Gem and Mineral Show - March 13-16, 2020**

Club volunteers are still needed to help with the Thursday (March 12) set ups, manning of the Association booth, admissions, auctions, etc. If club members wish to have a table (functioning as SWAP Dollars per Association protocol) please contact me so that arrangements can be made with the

Association. Club display cases can/will be placed on Thur., March 12 afternoon, and the traditional pot luck meal will occur at 4 pm Thursday evening for volunteers/participants. Attendees are requested to bring a side dish.

The Association is soliciting donated items to be sold at that booth (benefits the scholarship fund). If contributing, please label and identify items as much as possible prior to transferring the pieces.

Note: For this show, Tom Tivol's birthstone spheres (viewed at our Jan. club meeting) will be on display. Also, Larry Wells is preparing a piezo exhibit for the show. Finally, Sandra Daum is coming to the show from Florida and will be contributing an item for the auction. Thanks to all for their involvement and assistance in the show.

### **Fall Presentation**

For a program this fall, we have a tentative agreement to have another presentation by KU paleontologist Dr. David Burnham. They continue their multi-year effort to recover a T rex from the Hell Creek Formation near Jordon, MT. KU now also has a new Science Officer, and we will attempt to have this person present at the same club meeting.

### **Almost Antiques**

This fall, I added to my personal library Gemstones of North America (1962) and Gemstone & Mineral Data Book (1972) by noted gemologist, gem carver, faceter, micromounter and author John Sinkanas (1915-2002). Mr. Sinkankas was highly regarded having a mineral formula named after him (Sinkankasite), was awarded the Distinguished Associate Award from the GIA, the Doctor of Humane Letters from William Patterson College, and the Carnegie Mineralogical Award. More visibly he has a 7,000 carat faceted egg of rock crystal and a 2,054 carat golden beryl in the Smithsonian Institution, and gems in the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Of local interest Mr. Sinkankas was the featured speaker at the March 1975 KC Gem and Mineral Show and was known to some of our club members.

Norm Onnen

## **VICE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

### **February Presentation**

Last year's Swap & Shop was a great success so we are repeating it again this year. This is a really fun night with members bringing in items, usually rock/gem related, for anyone to buy or even trade. Please feel free to bring friends and family who may be interested also. Also remember to bring your checkbooks and cash with you!

Just a reminder, we will *not* have refreshments or a raffle at this meeting but we will resume both in March. Thank you all for your participation in this fun event and I hope we see all of you there.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

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

Lesliee has identified the following potential fieldtrips for the coming year:

Whetrock Quarry, Troy, KS

Mozarkite Trip

NELSON QUARRY WAVERLY, KS

HAMM Nebraska

Fluorescents in Nebraska

Kansas Dendrites

Watch for future updates.

## **NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS**

### **Cabin Fever Days**

Great time to work on rocks in the shops, and to read, read, read..... To that end the following clips.

2nd largest mined diamond sold. Mined in April 2019 at the Karowe mine in Botswana, the 1,758-carat "Sewelo" diamond (means "rare find" in Setswana) quickly disappeared. Then in July it re-appeared and was sold to fashion designer Louis Vuitton (head of LVMH, which in November purchased Tiffany for \$16.2 billion. LVMH in 2018 had revenues of \$52 billion). The baseball sized Sewelo is covered in carbon making a mystery of what kind of diamond is inside, however it was examined at the mine through a tiny "window", scanned with lasers, and described as "near gem quality, with domains of high-quality white gems". There are 10,000 gradations of diamonds, ranging from D-flawless (the most rare). Current expectations are that the Sewlo is D or D-flawless.

The new owner (LVMH) is currently having built in Antwerp a scanner to see through the stone's coating, though with the previous imaging including a CT scan, it is estimated it may yield a 904-carat cushion-cut diamond, a 891-carat Oval, or several stones between 100 and 300 carats. It apparently will not be cut until a buyer is established, however Mr. Vuitton/LVMH indicates they have no intention of keeping the gem. The sale price was not revealed, however for comparison the 813-carat Constellation discovered in 2015 sold for \$63 million. The largest diamond ever discovered???? - The 3,106.75-carat Cullinan (discovered in S. Africa in 1905) which eventually yielded a 530.4-carat and a 317.4-carat stones, both now a part of the British crown jewels. (News source: The New York Times; 1/16/20).

### **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - items of interest**

Nicodemus, KS and Sternberg Museum; bus tour and meals; April 3, 2020 (leaves and returns to Lawrence and Manhattan, KS)

Petroglyphs of the KS Smoky Hills; lecture; Feb, 26, 2020; Lawrence, KS

The Flint Hills: America's Last Tallgrass Prairie; lecture; Feb. 13, 20 & 27, 2020; Lawrence, KS

Conquistadors in Kansas; lecture; Mar., 4, 11 & 18, 2020; Lawrence, KS

Deep Time: Stories from the Rocks; lecture; April 21, 28 & May 5, 2020; Lawrence, KS

(Note: The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kansas provides “enrichment short courses & special events” for adults. Special events are at various locations, while courses occur in Kansas (Lawrence, Eudora, Manhattan, Topeka, Overland Park, Lenexa, Gardner, Olathe, Roeland Park, Mission, Fairway, KCK, Prairie Village, and Leavenworth), and in MO (Clay County). For additional information, schedules, spring catalog, please contact me. Norm Onnen).

(Source: Osher Spring 2020 catalog)

### **Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park, KS.**

This 330-acre park located in Logan County, KS was owned by the McGuire family ranch, and purchased in 2016 by The Nature Conservancy and jointly operated with the State of Kansas, is now open to the public as a state park. Access and use is per state park regulations (no collecting of rocks, minerals or fossils). The geology of this park (while larger and having trails and other amenities) resembles that of nearby Castle Rock and Monument Rocks National Natural Landmark. (Also, of interest in the area is the Fick Fossil and History Museum (at Oakley), and El Cuartelejo Pueblo Ruins (the furthest east pueblo site, and path of Coronado on his search for the gold city). (Source: Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine)

### **The Topeka Magazine**

The Topeka Magazine (winter 2019) features an article entitled: (The Rock Experts) of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS), and the NE Kan Rock and Fossil Club. The TGMS started in 1948, while the NE KS club began only in 2017. Brad Davenport and Larry Henderson, familiar to many Association and OGMS members, are interviewed.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **March 13, 14, 15, 2020**

The 59th Annual KC GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Will be held at The KCI Expo

11730 NW Ambassador Dr., KCMO 64153

### **June 6, 2020**

OGMS Picnic – Kill Creek Park