



JUNE 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: Vacant

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. Delegates: Vicky Ritter & Mandy Lorenz

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

PICNIC REMINDER: Our OGMS annual picnic has been postponed (from Sat., June 6) to Sat., Aug. 29, 2020 at Kill Creek Park, Olathe, KS.

As our May club meeting was cancelled, dues normally collected in May are now being scheduled to be collected at the picnic, or at the Sept. club meeting which is currently scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020.

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Kansas re-opening and OGMS interim events:

Over Memorial Day weekend, the state of Kansas is entering Phase 2 recovery and relaxing stay-at-home orders, and limiting crowd sizes to no more than 15 individuals. (This would have adversely affected our picnic had we tried to meet on June 6).

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OGMS Meetings

At this time, we intend to continue meeting at the Indian Creek Community Church on Black Bob Road. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020. As most are aware, the church has been closed during the virus situation (the result being that our April and May meetings had to be cancelled). Conversations will be held concerning the status in the next couple of weeks. Regarding this, the church has changed and is no longer the Indian Creek Community Church, but is now Hope Chapels, and is at three locations (on Black Bob Road where we meet, at 4835 Shawnee Drive, and at 1150 Woods Chapel in Lee's Summit). They presently have developed a plan (apparently in accordance with state and local guidelines) for re-opening in three phases, plus a final phase. These plans, which would affect user groups, can be seen on their website.

OGMS Field Trips

It is hoped that the virus situation will mitigate to the degree that our club can participate in some field trips this summer and fall. Word is being awaited from Hamm Quarries as to access possibilities at some of their close KC area sites. Also, once UMKC re-opens, hopefully the club can participate in a previously offered (by Dr. Richard Gentile) tour of their renovated geo and science facility/museum.

Dinosaur Day(s)

This year Dinosaur Day(s) is May 14 (whoops, missed that one) and June 1. An inquisitive hominid mind might ask why there are two days for this humongous event. The explanation can be found via Google where it is explained that originally Dinosaur Day was to be the third Thursday of May each year, that revelation then followed by a further explanation that it is easier to remember a fixed day (such as June 1) as being the important day. No explanation or credit was found as to who makes (or made) this determination, but it apparently is vitally important to the remembrance of these extinct creatures. That being said, the Museum of Natural History (and the home of Dr. David Burnham who has given OGMS updates on T rex recovery efforts by KU in MT) remains closed during the virus situation, but the Dino Lab associated with Science City in Union Station in KC is now scheduled to re-open on June 10, 2020 - - so maybe June 10 can be the ad hoc Dinosaur Day for this year. Who of unnamed authority can dismiss this proclamation? (NEO)



And speaking of dinosaurs and KC - - and Chimpanzees, [et.al.](#)

At Kauffman Center in conjunction with National Geographic, on April 28, 2020, "Spinosaurus: The Lost Giant" was to be presented by noted paleontologist Nizar Ibrahim. This was postponed to June 16, 2020, and is now listed as cancelled. On May 26 the presentation of "Where Wild Things Live" has been cancelled. Also, "Jane in Concert" (about Jane Goodall and her work with chimpanzees) originally scheduled at Kauffman Center for June 9 is now listed as cancelled. It is unknown at this time if these will be re-scheduled, or permanently cancelled. **The Kauffman website indicates the Center is closed until July 5, 2020.** (NEO)

National Parks

During our stay-at-home exercises, the National Parks for the most part have been closed - - and are now one-by-one being re-opened, and available for summer vacation planning from our arm chairs. May anniversary dates for the parks include May 11 - the 110th anniversary of Glacier National Park; May 22 - the 118th anniversary of Crater Lake National Park and the 94th anniversary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and May 30 - the 86th anniversary of Everglades National Park. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is listed as being the most visited of the parks, as can readily be explained by the proximity of large east coast population centers, and major nearby highways (including I-40). (NEO)

Nurdles ???

Not to be found in any dictionary, tiny lentil-sized plastic pellets have been awarded the clever name "nurdles" by someone, and were a featured topic on a TV documentary this spring. From Parade Magazine, it is revealed that over 250,000 tons of nurdles end up in our oceans each year via manufacturing mismanagement, spills or illegal dumping, where they soak up toxic pollutants and are eaten by marine animals and birds (much to their detriment). It is also now suspected that plastic, if and when it might eventually break down, will result in some form of nurdles also. Several years ago, while working with the Galveston Corps of Engineers, I had time to explore the beach along the Galveston, TX seawall and when the tides and winds were right drifts of pellets could be found and scooped up at the sea wall base. At the time, thinking these were gastropod operculums, I saved vials of these to add to my shell collection, now to understand they are unwanted and hazardous (to wildlife) debris. Today researchers are finding these all along the Texas beaches from Padre Island to Galveston (and assumed other worldwide beaches), and are attempting to track down those responsible for this form of pollution. More information on "nurdles" can be found at www.nurdlepartol.org (To recognize that these are plastic, hold a heated pin or knife point to the pellet which will emit the recognizable plastic smell). (NEO)

Buying Turquoise

An April 19, 2020 Parade Magazine (insert in the Sunday newspaper) ad featured "Sacred Stone of the Southwest on the Brink of Extinction", selling a turquoise set (consisting of a pendant, 18' Bali chain, and a pair of 1-1/2" earrings). This set originally priced at \$747 was offered on special sale at \$249. Text indicated the offering firm, Stauer, recently visited the Tucson gem and mineral show and learned that turquoise is a vanishing commodity with many mines being depleted, closed and quality turquoise rare. True, like many gemstones, quality material is limited, however this ad indicated they acquired a "limited supply from Arizona" and thus were offering this special. What was missing is that there is no mention of the turquoise mine source (important to turquoise lovers and buyers), and only vaguely mentioned that this offered material was stabilized (which in fact is less than the top quality material that industry recognizes, but is better than "reconstituted or chalk").

Arizona has five recognized prime turquoise mine sources (Sleeping Beauty, Castle, Dome, Bisbee and Morenci), which could have been identified if in fact this material was from any one of them. Since no mine was identified, and the material was "stabilized" (which often can include undeclared color enhancement), the buyer cannot be confident that the material is what is suggested (and might not actually be from AZ). Curiously, the ad indicates the size of pendant stone as "26 cts" (rather than physical size) and the earrings as 10 ctw, and does not state the material/quality of the setting or chain. An on line check of Stauer finds comments pro and con all over the range. So, as always, BUYER BEWARE, and when possible get a certificate of authenticity. (NEO)



FIELD TRIPS

All club sanctioned field trips are on hold at this time. Watch for future updates.

Lesliee has identified the following potential field trips for the coming year:

Whetrock Quarry, Troy, KS

Mozarkite Trip

NELSON QUARRY WAVERLY, KS

HAMM Nebraska

Fluorescents in Nebraska

Kansas Dendrites

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Limerick Time Thanks to Goldie and Jeff Foster - <https://www.oedilf.com/>

Drusy gemstones are gems in the rough;

Sugar crystals in geodes — good stuff.

Drusy hole in an agate?

It's beautiful — snag it.

Gemologists can't get enough.

Diagenesis works 'round the clock

Making sediment morph into rock.

It alters systemically—

Physically, chemically.

(Man, sediment's in for a shock.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6, 2020

~~OGMS Picnic — Kill Creek Park~~ — **Rescheduled to Aug 29th**

June 12-14, 2020 - Cancelled

Park Hills, MO. Missouri Mines Rock Swap. MO Mines State Historic Site. June 12-14, 2020.

June 19-21, 2020 - Cancelled

Victor, CO. Victor Gem and Mineral Show. June 19-21, 2020.

June 26-28, 2020 - Cancelled

Eldon, MO. Osage, MO Gem, Jewelry, Rock, Mineral, & Fossil Show. Eldon Community Center. June 26-28, 2020.

July 11-12, 2020

Tulsa, OK. Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Exchange Center-Tulsa County Fairgrounds. July 11 and 12, 2020.

August 29, 2020

OGMS Picnic – Kill Creek Park

September 26-27, 2020

Omaha, NE Omaha Gem and Mineral Show. Ramada Plaza. Sept. 26 and 27, 2020.

October 10-11, 2020

Topeka, KS. Topeka Gem & Mineral Society 64th Annual Show. “Green with Envy”. Agricultural Center. Oct. 10 and 11, 2020.

October 17-18, 2020

Des Moines, Iowa. 2020 Gem, Jewelry, Mineral & Fossil Show. Iowa State Fairgrounds. Oct 17 and 18, 2020.

November 6-8, 2020

Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show. KC Expo Center. Nov. 6-8, 2020.

