



JULY 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:

OGMS Meetings

Our next regular club meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020 at Indian Creek Community Church (now renamed Hope Chapels). The church has been closed since March and is gradually reopening in accordance with their established and approved phase plans. With the daily uncertainty regarding the virus situation we will continue to monitor progress on the reopening, however presently we are moving forward to having our scheduled meeting as indicated. Should conditions change and warrant modifications, we will immediately notify all OGMS members by email. We look forward to seeing each of you again following this long unintended recess.

OGMS Field Trip

A field trip has been arranged to the Hamm Quarry in Louisburg, KS on Sat. morning, June 27, 2020. I will need to be notified by Wed., June 24, 2020 if you intend to participate (so that quarry staff can have the proper number of hard hats and safety vests available). Notify me of your intentions at onnenne@kc.rr.co ASAP. We have been to this quarry twice before. They blasted a new area this past Monday that we will have access to, and the North upper ledges will also be open to us. For later this year, Hamm quarries has 4 additional sites in the area we will be permitted to collect in, depending upon interest.

OGMS Board Meeting

With the virus shut down, neither the club nor the Board has met since March. Tentatively the Board will now meet on Tuesday, July 14 (agenda, time and place to be determined). Should members have concerns, and or items that need to be addressed at this time, please feel free to contact any of the

Board to have the topics included on an agenda. Present active Board members are Norman Onnen, Lisa Hulbert, Barbara Crompton, M. John Robinson, Dan McDaniel and Leslie Hartman.

OGMS Picnic

The OGMS annual summer picnic, originally scheduled for June 6 was postponed in deference to the virus situation. The new date is Sat., August 29, 2020, still at Kill Creek Park in Olathe, KS. Again, as we get closer to that time, we will closely monitor the virus situation and provide updated information as needed.

Association Picnic

OGMS, as a member of the Greater Kansas City Association of Earth Science Clubs, is always invited to the annual Association picnic (normally on a Sept. Sunday) in Antioch Park, Overland Park, KS. Because of the virus situation, this year's picnic has yet to be established, however park officials indicate they expect reservations may be made starting in August - again depending upon conditions at that time. As information is developed OGMS members will be notified.

OGMS Membership Dues

Membership dues, per Bylaws, are normally collected at the May club meeting each year. Under the current virus situation, dues will now be collected at the August picnic and/or our scheduled Sept. club meeting.

Rocky Mountain Federation Congress

As in the past the OGMS was to be represented at the annual Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies (RMFMS) annual Congress (on June 19-20, 2020). Due to virus concerns our delegates cancelled attending this event, and our Proxy was submitted to the Kansas RMF coordinator for voting purposes. Initial reports are that no Kansas clubs (including the state coordinator) will attend, and we will await the minutes and report of Congress determinations.

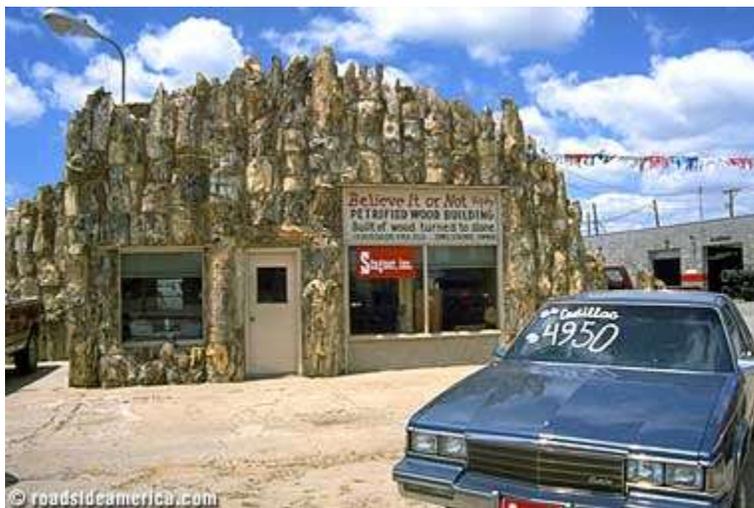
Kansas National Forest?

"Didjknow" that Kansas once had a National Forest? This might be of interest as western Kansas is presently under extreme fire hazard warnings, as is much of eastern Colorado. Anyway, in 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt used the Executive Order vehicle and designated 80,000 acres of land (essentially along the south side of the Arkansas River, SW of Garden City, and now along KS Route 50) as the "Garden City Forest Reserve". This was to be an experimental forest to determine which trees were best adapted to the SW environment. The area extended east from the Colorado/Kansas state line and included portions of Finney, Kearney, Hamilton, Grant, and Haskell counties. Over time the forest area became 302,387 acres, and plantings in 1906 and 1907 included 50,000 yellow pines; 30,000 hackberry, locust, and Osage orange trees; and 170,000 evergreen, black locust, western yellow pine, jack pine, and Scotch pine. The first year plantings were devastated in 1907 by a 200 square mile prairie fire, and a drought in 1911 killed 90% of the living trees. Some replanting, in evergreens, occurred with

minimal success, and in 1915 President Woodrow Wilson abolished (actually by proclamation withdrew for the “public good) certain forest lands by adding 300,000 acres to federal land available to homesteaders. All that remained was a narrow strip of land from Syracuse to the Colorado border, and consisted of “a stand of yellow pine planted in 1906, which never grew more than two feet tall”.

So much for a Kansas National Forest, but the USDA Forest Service has a presence in Kansas in that they manage the Cimarron National Grassland (in Morton and Stevens Counties). This is 108,175 acres and is the largest area of public land in the state, and the only parcel managed in Kansas by the National Forest Service.

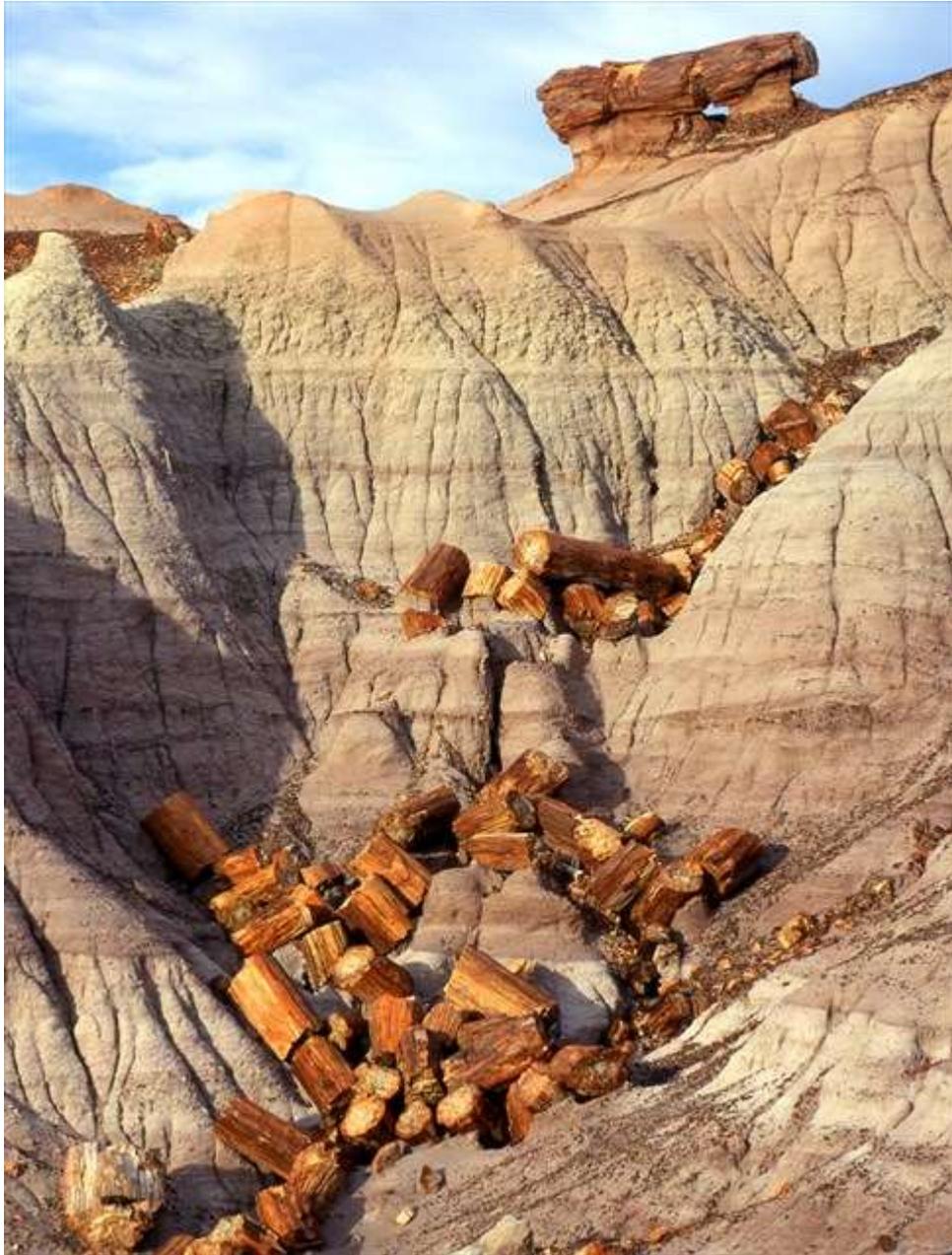
June Culp Zeitner, in her “Midwest Gem Trails” offers no suggestions for gem or mineral collecting in this area (known as the Arkansas River Lowlands physiographic area”), so what does a traveler through this almost featureless area interest themselves in? The answer primarily is “Getting to Colorado”, however just outside of Garden City is the Finney Wildlife and Bison Refuge (once part of the Kansas National Forest, and just 30 miles inside CO is Lamar where in 1932 a gas station was built out of collected petrified logs. This structure (once listed in Ripple’s Believe It or Not) still stands, is right on the highway passing through the town and is worth a quick stop. The present owner (operator of an adjacent car dealership) is very friendly and eager to discuss the building.



Courtesy of RoadsideAmerica.com

Bulletin items

Over this extended recess, surely members have been busy in their respective G&M shops, taking individual trips, collecting, etc. Let us hear what you’ve been up to by submitting items to Dan McDaniel for the monthly Bulletin.



FIELD TRIPS

Per Lesliee, there are no field trips planned at this time other than the Hamm trip on June 27th.

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Limerick Time Thanks to Howard Spindel and Graham Lester - <https://www.oedilf.com/>

WPSI first runner up

In the Alps, lived a foundling so sad,
'Til one day, came a woman, said, "Lad,
Don't you recognize me?
I'm your ma, can't you see?"
"Yodeladyhoo married my dad?"

Biogenic sedimentary rock
Will go on being formed round the clock.
Life will die and decay,
Making coal by the way,
And what folks here in Kansas call "chock".

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11-12, 2020

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

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.

