



## **NOVEMBER 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 Hope Chapel (formerly 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 2020 – 2021:**

President: Norman Onnen (816)645-1333

Vice President: Lisa Hulbert (913)223-1028

Secretary: Alison Betts (913)962-9584

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**

November General Meeting – **Cancelled** Our church meeting location is slowly reopening and it appears we will be able to meet there once more, however schedules may be somewhat modified. (Tuesdays may not be available). As such we will continue to communicate with them and tentatively hope to meet as a club once more starting in Jan. 2021 (virus permitting). Please watch the Bulletin and Website for additional information.

### **Holiday Party**

As for our traditional December holiday party, HyVee has confirmed that they will not yet open their meeting room for use this season. Therefore, opting on the side of caution and unable to arrange a venue at this late date, our club will not have the holiday party this year. We apologize for the situation however we value the health and safety of our members and the staff who would have been needed to have such an event at this time.

### **Summer Report**

Our summer has been successful, especially in terms of field trips. These trips have been well attended, and the club has gained several new members (including children) because of them. There have been inquiries from families about future opportunities (they are following our web page which is very encouraging). Thanks to Leslie Hartman for pulling these trips together. They have been the life blood of the organization in lieu of any other club activity during the pandemic. Early on the schedule for next year is a visit to one of the HAMM quarries in the Kansas City area (this is in lieu of a visit that was originally scheduled for Oct. 2020.)

New members over the summer include -

Clint Gregg, who lives in Olathe

Matthew Thompson, and his son Andrew (11), who live in Stilwell (moved here from Utah)

Jason and Valorie Wilson, and their sons Declan (14) and Marshall (5), who live in Olathe We welcome these new members and look forward to meeting them at club meetings and events in the new year.

### **MWF Award**

OGMS club members may recall the presentation at one of our meetings in the past year by guest speaker Dan (and Connie) Snow concerning fluorescent minerals. Also, if you attended the March 2020 gem and mineral show, you may have seen Dan's fluorescent display. At that show, Dan provided a flyer he developed about fluorescent minerals and how U/V light affects our ability to observe these wonders. We are pleased to learn that Dan has been awarded first place in the Special Publications category at the Midwest Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies - Editors Level. This has since been sent onward to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies to be judged. We wish Dan success on this submittal at the national level. Currently Dan is scheduled to have his display at our 2021 March show again.

### **November Gem and Mineral Show**

I feel everyone is aware that the November gem and mineral show has been officially cancelled by Shows of Integrity. At this moment the planning for the March 2021 show is ongoing at our Association level (and it is assumed that Shows of Integrity will be participating again). It is interesting that the current rock magazines (Rock & Gem, The Mineralogical Record, etc.) are not presently listing any shows for the next year. Normally they would be listed three months in advance.

### **501(c)(3)**

Effective August 27, 2020 our club officially became the Olathe Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. (this by the affirmative action of the state of Kansas regarding the submittal of paperwork for our club to become officially a non-profit entity). Our reporting period will be Sept. to Sept. in recognition of our normal club operating period. This state recognition was step 1 in establishing the non-profit status. In the next few weeks this will followed up with steps 2 and 3 (the submittal requests to obtain Federal and State tax exemptions). In the past we have been asked (for the purpose of contributions) if we are non-profit. We will now be able to answer in the affirmative. The approved/stated purpose of our non-profit organization is "To advance education in the Earth Sciences and related fields, and to engage in charitable, educational, scientific and literary activities of any and all kinds.". It is important to understand that in our capacity "No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office".

### **Association Information**

The Association is soliciting, via of a contest, submittals for the new T-shirt design in what will be the 60th gem and mineral show. All clubs and club members are eligible to submit. The winning entry will

receive recognition, a \$50 award, and a new T-shirt. Submittals must be made by the Association Board meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

### **RMFMS**

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies (of which the Olathe Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. is a member) maintains a vast library related to gems, minerals and earth sciences. A listing of the holdings is maintained in our OGMS library; however, this list can also be viewed on the RMF website. The RMF librarian is also the Kansas RMF area representative, so these items are very close by and readily available. Members are encouraged to make use of this valuable resource either personally or for our club. If you need assistance in borrowing items of interest, please feel free to contact me.

Also, the Federation maintains a directory of all 80 clubs within the organization - representing 9000 members in the regions 13 states (AZ, AR, CO, KS, NE, NV, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, UT and WY). In most cases the Field Trip Chair is listed for each club and can be contacted to obtain information concerning collecting sites within their areas. We have used this resource with varying degrees of success for our traveling members, and urge everyone, using ample time as a standard, to avail themselves of the assistance.

Please stay safe and well, and enjoy the holidays, families and friends. We look forward to seeing each of you in the new year.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

**From Leslie** – The October 24th Field trip to the Nebraska quarry was the last trip for 2020. This quarry has grown since the last time I was there 2 years ago. They have organized all the rocks into several piles. I determined the fossils were all piled around the outer edges but these piles were the first layers that were found years ago. As I was going back to their new area, they were not digging into fossil layers. If they continue on this path of excavation, I do not plan to fossil hunt there again. Their location in Troy, KS still has some surprises of fossils, which will still be left on the list.

For the next few months, we will be taking a break for the holidays and the cool/cold weather. In the meantime, I will be working on the next set of field trips for next year when the weather permits. If anyone has any location to visit, let me know and I will check it out for a field trip possibility. Contact me at [hartman.12345@hotmail.com](mailto:hartman.12345@hotmail.com) or text me at 785-380-6016.

### **NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS**

#### **Pyrite Disease**

Pyrite disease. (AKA as pyrite oxidation, decay, rot, etc.) Collectors of gems, rocks (including marcasite and lead based specimens) and fossils have long been plagued by what is termed pyrite disease (and a

fossil triceratops at the Smithsonian had to be removed from display because of the effects of pyrite on the bones). In spite of various treatment attempts, most, including museums, no longer attempt to maintain or display marcasite and/or items affected by pyrite decay. While not always initially believed to be affected by pyrite, over time sulphuric acid odor, white crystalline powder and/or yellow sulphide powder may be observed and indicate the process of decay underway. At this point it is usually too late to try to salvage the specimen. The problem is that pyrite (iron persulfide) gradually decays to iron sulphate ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ) and expands several times the original volume via accepting moisture (humidity). If on the surface of a specimen this can be addressed sometimes with a degree of success, however many times the pyrite is totally or partially within a specimen. Early recognition is key to any measure of success in protecting a specimen, and necessitates removing as much of the pyrite as possible and treating any remnants (see publications for humidity control, sealants, etc. that have been attempted, to various degrees of success). Recently PaleoBond has published information that their "Penetrant Sealer" provides some solution to pyrite decay on fossils. I have recently applied some of this product to Cretaceous fish bones (after removal as much visible pyrite as possible) and will monitor over time any development. - Norm O.

### **Cufflink to a Ring**

A man from Colorado lost one of his favorite cufflinks and was distraught over the loss. His wife wanted to give him a special anniversary present and the idea came to her to do something with the remaining cufflink. She sent the cufflink to her daughter who lives in Desoto, KS without his knowledge, and then she gave Larry Wells the cufflink. She asked if he could make a ring out of the intaglio. The cufflink was costume so it had no value, but the intaglio was beautiful and made of glass, not plastic. Larry indicated that he could fabricate a ring for the intaglio and that they asked it be made of 14 karat yellow gold. Pictures are included of the final product. – Larry Wells





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Shows: Note that many annual gem and mineral shows have cancelled. Rock & Gem magazine (the magazine officially recognized by the Rocky Mountain Federation) now has a header at its "Show Dates" column, directing readers to check the status of shows, but it does not indicate any cancellations.

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