



MARCH 2021 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.

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 Club Meetings

The COVID -19 virus concerns continue to influence our decision regarding resumption of our monthly meetings. As such we remain in recess until such time a more significant and positive measure of health concern is assured. Please watch our bulletin for announcements as to when we will resume our normal activities. In the interim we encourage everyone to continue to practice safe health measures.

OGMS Directory

This pause period due to the virus has been an opportune time to update the club directory. This has now been posted on our club web site accessible via a password to members. Thanks to Dan McDaniel and Barbara Crompton for their efforts in checking and correcting all directory entries. Please remember to notify our Membership Chair M. John Robinson, as well as Dan and Barbara, of any changes to member contact information going forward. Please remember the use of the information in the directory is limited to in-OGMS use and not to be shared.

March 2021 KC Gem and Mineral Show

As announced last month, it is with regret that we've learned that the march 2021 Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show has had to be cancelled due to virus concerns. This determination is a result of the assessment by the Kansas City Dept. of Health who issues the permits for these events. There was to be a re-assessment in mid-February, however the potential that conditions might not improve sufficiently by then, coupled with the late time frame, rendered it not realistic to keep the event on the calendar for the Association. Vendors are being given the option of rolling their registration fees to 2022 or requesting a refund. (Not to feel slighted, the KC Dept. of Health is cancelling all events which would include large groups of participants in an environment that could not be social distancing controlled, and the popular gun show was one of these).

November 2021 KC Gem and Mineral Show

While it is still very early, it is anticipated that the November gem and mineral show (by Shows of Integrity) will still occur, again pending virus impact and concerns. The KC Health Dept. will also have permit oversight of this event as the time nears.

OGMS 2021 Summer Picnic

Being optimistic, we have scheduled and reserved our club summer picnic for Saturday, June 5, 2021 at Kill Creek Park – Shelter #3 in Olathe. The shelter (which we have used before) is isolated and large enough for us to spread out and practice social distancing, if still prudent then. We look forward to once more being together.

Association T shirts

In spite of the March 2021 KC Gem and Mineral Show being cancelled, the new Association T shirts have been produced and are available — well in advance of the Nov. 2021 show. Prices are \$12 (and \$15 for XX and XXX) sizes. Order yours today and they will be delivered. N. Onnen



OGMS Field Trip

Our first organized field trip of 2021 will occur Sat., March 13 at the Hamm Quarry in Louisburg, KS. A rainout day is scheduled, if needed for Saturday, March 20. An email notice will be sent to the membership with details the week before the visit.

Lapidary equipment

While our club has not established the general practice of selling items on/in our Bulletin, Barbara Crompton and I are assisting an out-of-town family (closing an estate) selling some lapidary equipment prior to an open sale after March. If anyone is interested in any of these items, please contact us. (N. Onnen)

Available is -

A two wheel Crown Lap Equipment arbor and motor (wheels 8" diameter x 3")(motor is Bell & Gossett 1/6 hp). One wheel needs to be replaced.

A two wheel Prairie arbor and motor (wheels 8" diameter x 1-1/2")(motor 1/3 hp). This unit has an elevated water tank for lubrication.

A Frantom 10' trim saw with table top vises (not screw driven). The diamond blade appears to have reasonable life remaining.

A Raytech Tumble-Vibe 5

A Foredom (believed to be the "General Kit")

FIELD TRIPS

First field trip of the year will Saturday, March 13 to the HAMM Quarry in Louisburg, KS. Rain date Saturday, March 20 possibly to Olathe, KS. Watch for emails for updates and details! Please let me know if you can make the March 13th field trip.

If you have any ideas for a field trip please let me know by email or text hartman.12345@hotmail.com or 785-380-6016. Leslie

NEWS, VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Correction to the item on Gold in the Feb. OGMS Bulletin.

One alert reader checked the math on the value of the 5-mile-long gold thread. This should have been \$0.07/foot (rather than the stated \$14.16/foot), a clear indication to only buy/sell from a known and trusted source. (Thanks Mike McClurg).

Pearls in Kansas

There are pearls to be found in Kansas. Typically, pearls can occasionally (but rarely) be found in our fresh water clams. But did you know that there are also fossil pearls to be found in the Smoky Hill formation mussels? These have been found attached to and associated with the large Inoceramus fossil clams in the chalk beds of western Kansas. In fact, George Sternberg (of the famous Sternberg fossil

sleuthing family) donated 50 fossil pearls to the Smithsonian in 1940. These pearls are large, some being half the size of a golf ball. Sadly, these are typically only for the satisfaction of having them in a collection as the "mother of pearl" luster is not preserved due to the fact that the pearly, nacreous color associated with pearls is made up of the mineral aragonite. In Kansas the aragonite has not been preserved and the remains are solely composed of calcite - but still collectible as being unique. N. Onnen

And speaking of fossils -

Speaking of Kansas fossils, there is an inordinate volume of marine coprolites to be found in the Niobrabra formation (consisting of the Smoky Hill chalk and Ft. Hays limestone) of western Kansas and Nebraska. The reason these are more readily preserved is that they typically consist of pieces of vertebra and fish bones, and oyster shell fragments, which are largely composed of calcium phosphate which is more resistant to erosion in the surrounding chalk. This is all a result of western Kansas being a part of the Western Interior Sea during the Cretaceous period (87-82 mya). N. Onnen

"Pi" in Kansas City

Jade expert Oscar Luzzatto-Bilitz in his "Antique Jade" book, (Hamlyn Publishing Group, 1966) highlights two exceptional Chinese jade pieces housed in the Kansas City Nelson - Atkins Gallery. The two items, identified as Pi (in the west also as "Bi") are round disks with a center hole which is attributed to heaven. Very early disks were plain disks, however later editions were highly decorated - all by hand engraving, and with no metal tools or machines, this being before the Bronze Age. All work was done with wood and bamboo sticks and a paste of "toad fat" and crushed garnets, (actually the "toad fat", is fable and now recognized as being mutton fat). Those items at the Nelson are attributed to the Warring States period of China (481-221 BC) and are believed to be the finest in any collection. One is nephrite and the other is jadeite. N. Onnen

Open, closed, open again, closed again, open again.....

Tiffany on the Plaza originally established a store in 1993 but closed only two years later. They returned to KC and the Plaza in 2004 and in early Jan. 2021 announced they permanently would close once more on Jan. 31 (but in fact closed on Jan. 16). Then in a sudden reversal they have decided to re-open at the same 301 Nichols Road site in March 2021. There has been no clear explanation to the change in plans other than "With our recent change in ownership and management we have reassessed the decision and elected to re-enter the Kansas City market." (KC Star; 2/10/21). N. Onnen

Jurassic Park (-like) humor

Morrison, CO, the namesake of the Morrison formation (site of the first discovery of three types of dinosaurs) is the home of a punster. The following represent some of his/her (?) more recent postings. (More to come later). N. Onnen



UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Shows

While many shows are being cancelled across the country due to the virus, there are a few still being tentatively scheduled. Interested individuals are cautioned to periodically check the status of shows and promoter notices. The major Tucson Gem and Mineral Show at the convention center has been re-scheduled for Feb. 2022. Thanks to Barbara Crompton for the following information provided from a California club she also belongs to:

Because of the current COVID situation major Tucson shows were postponed to April. Below is the list of some of them, that will be open 7-25th April (but there is many more!).

The Mineral City Show 2021 (April 8-18); Sun Gems Show (April 7-25); Pueblo Gem & Mineral Show (April 8-20); The Big Gem Show (formerly HTTC, Inn Suites) (April 10-24)

Miners Co-op Rock Show (April 8-25); 22nd Street Show (April 8-25); Kino Gem & Mineral Show (April 8-25); 1820 Oracle Wholesale Show (April 7-25); 1801 Oracle – Mineral Village Show (April 7-25)

Mineral & Fossil Marketplace (April 9-24); G&LW Tucson Gem Show (April 10-18); GIGM Shows (April 9-24); JOGS Tucson Gem & Jewelry Show (April 7-19)

[Note: The TGMS Show remains cancelled and is not included in this April reschedule.]

March 12-14, 2021 – KC Gem and Mineral Show -**CANCELLED**