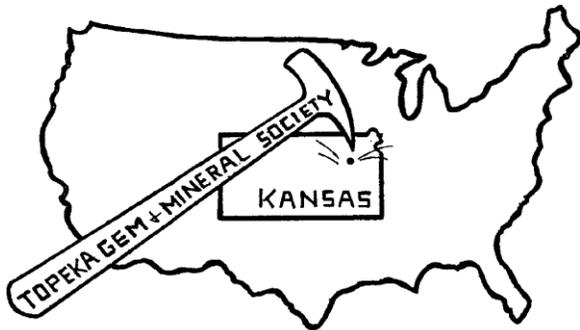


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



www.topekagemandmineral.org
 Facebook: Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Field Trip

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 Organized December 3, 1948

Member of Rocky Mountain Federation of
 Mineralogical Societies American Federation of
 Mineralogical Societies



The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 57, No. 07, July. 2014

The Purpose of the Topeka Gem & Mineral Society shall be exclusively educational and scientific: (1) to promote interest in geology and the lapidary arts; (2) to encourage the collection and display of rocks, gems, and minerals; (3) to encourage field trips and excursions of a geological, or lapidary nature; and (4) to encourage greater public interest and education in gems and minerals, cooperating with the established institutions in such matters.

Meetings: 4th Friday of each month, September to May, 7:30 pm, Stoffer Science Hall, Room 138, Washburn University.
 No meeting in December unless notified of a change. Picnic meetings are held June, July and August.

Dues: Individual, \$15.00; Couple, \$20.00; Junior (under 18 years of age), \$5.00. Dues are collected in December for the following year. Send dues to: **Millie Mowry, Treasurer, 1934 SW 30th St, Topeka, KS 66611.**

2014 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Mike Cote	220-3272	Cab of the Month	Debra Frantz/Fred Zeferjohn	862-8876
1 st Vice Pres.	Dave Dillon	272-7804	Field Trip Coord.	Larry Henderson	-----
2 nd Vice Pres.	Carolyn Brady	233-8305	Publicity	Donna Stockton	913-645-7677
Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Welcome/Registration	Jason Schulz	379-5538
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	M. Cote/D. Dillon	379-5538
Directors	George Reed	836-9277	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	Chuck Curtis	286-1790	Show Chairman	Harold Merrifield	286-3548
Historian	Deborah Scanland	273-3034	Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Federation Rep	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Jr. Rockhound Leader	Larry Henderson	-----
Librarian	Lucy Hrenchir	267-3325	Show Case Coordinator	Francis Stockton	913-645-7677
Web Master	Jason Schulz	379-5538			

Area Code for all numbers is (785).

SEW DAY – TO MAKE GRAB BAGS



The Calling Committee will be calling on you soon to set a date to make the grab bags for the show. Last year we had a great mixture of guys and gals helping. The guys cut the cords, turned the bags and kept things running smoothly while the gals kept the machines humming. We need pressers, those with portable sewing machines, and those who can cut cord. We need to make about 300 bags which should take about 2 to 3 hours. The Calling Committee will have all the details. Please volunteer and join in the fun.

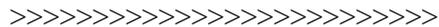
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JULY 18TH - AUGUST 22

There have been some changes in the dates for the Club picnics this year. I will be gone the 4th week in July so we are moving it up one week. The picnics are at 1934 SW 30th ST. Topeka, KS. Coffee and Tea will be furnished. Bring your own table service, and your favorite picnic food to share. We meet at 6:30 p.m.

REMEMBER.....there are NO CLUB meetings during these months. So come and join us at the picnics.



Lithophyllosis?

Do you have LITHOPHYLLOSIS?

There is NO cure! The word comes from Latin:



lithos meaning rock: *phyl*, and attraction to: and *osis*, condition.

Put them all together and you get a condition where the victim has an uncontrollable attraction to rocks. The disease can strike anyone, at any time, at any age, and . . . IS EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS! Sounds like common old ROCK POX to me, we have had that for years anyway! It is often caught at, and symptoms may become aggravated by, but may also for some, be relieved by, attending rock shows, club meetings, and field trips. Although be sure to use caution as all these things are HIGHLY addictive!! And are usually passed on to your children who will then be lifelong sufferers.

(Source: Beehive Buzzer 9/09; CLACKAMETTE GEM 6/14)

Words From the President.....

Summer is half over and plans are being made for the October show. We will be in need of lots of help in setting up and taking down all of the cases. We will have sign up sheets at the August picnic for those who want choice picks of where they want to work. We would like everyone to have their name badges and blue vest so that the vendors will know who are the members if they have questions. If you do not have them you need to see Millie to get them ordered.

Hope to see more at the July picnic—remember the date has changed to the 18th.

Mike and His Rock Stash!

Words from our V. P.

My surgery went great and I am back at classes! We are now doing wire wrapping, stone cutting and silversmithing for now. As far as casting classes I am now looking at fall due to the heat of the summer. I am sorry for the delay but was not planning on this surgery. Since we are doing the casting outside the heat does play a factor in doing this class. We are working with some intense heat when casting and the heat can be a lot higher in the summer. But I am going to have some waxes to show and will explain the process in whole yet this summer. I will have a round table showing and discussion to go over what we will be learning on casting. Look forward to seeing you in class!!!!

Dave

Field Trip Calendar - June 2014

The first and third Tuesday night the Fossil Special Interest Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Baker's Dozen, 4310 SW 21st St, Topeka, KS. We will discuss fossils and other collections. Come join us with show and tell on

July 15, 7:00 p.m. Fossil Special Interest Group, Show & Tell, at Baker's Dozen, 4310 SW 21st St, Topeka, KS

July 19, Field trip to the Flint Hills Discovery Center, See The *Ice Age Imperials* exhibition. Meet at McDonalds, leave at 9:00 am. See below.

Public Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Topeka-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-Field-Trips/92795058262> An up-to-date Calendar can be found on the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Website: <http://topekagemandmineral.org/calendar.html>

Trips dates are tentative and subject to additions and change. E-mail Larry if you have an interest in any of these trips LHenderson85@gmail.com Larry Henderson, Field Trip Chairman

Ice Age Imperials

At Flint Hills Discovery Center

June 14 to September 14, 2014

The *Ice Age Imperials* exhibition provides a rare opportunity for visitors to "touch" the Ice Age. Interacting with real fossils from ancient animals like the saber-toothed cat, woolly mammoth, giant sloth, dire wolf, giant beaver and teeth from a huge prehistoric bear makes the Ice Age come alive for visitors like never before.

Lessons of the Ice Age abound. How did glaciers form and move? During the Ice Age, was there ice where you live now? Discover the answers within graphic displays about glacial size and ice depth. Try assembling the 3-D Mastodon puzzle, or immerse yourself in the History of Earth timeline where you can touch a variety of fossils from more than 500 million years ago to less than one million years ago. <http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/exhibits/temporary-exhibits>
TGMS Field trip to the Flint Hills Discovery Center, Saturday, July 19, 2014 Meet at McDonalds, leave at 9:00 am. Will eat lunch in Manhattan.

Up Coming Show Dates

July 11-13 – Tulsa, OK AFMS/RMFMS & Tulsa Rock & Mineral Show, Tulsa Fairgrounds, Central Park Hall, 4800 E 15th St S. 918-486-3788 bthomas630@cox.net; www.townrockhound.org.

For additional listings of gem shows see www.rockngem.com

What Are Dendrites ??

Dendrites - crystalline, black, fern-like patterns that resemble forest scenes - have captured the fancy of collectors for centuries. Dendrites produce an amazing original work of art by Mother Nature. You may have heard the term dendrite or more likely the adjective, dendritic, used when describing a gemstone and wondered exactly what it was. They are attractive patterns, usually black or dark brown that are seen in many types of gemstone material. They are most often associated with agates but are sometimes found in quartz, opal, limestone and other stones. They are sometimes called picture stone or painted stone. The patterns occur naturally due to the presence of iron and manganese oxides. Dendrites are the branch-like formations of manganese oxide crystallizing within the stone. Metaphysically, these mineral dendrites symbolize growth or change. The word *dendrite* comes from the Greek word for "tree" because a dendritic inclusion in a stone looks like a branching tree or at least like some type of plant life.



They are often said to look like ferns or moss and many people mistakenly speculate that they are fossil imprints of moss. Actually dendrites are inclusions of manganese crystals.

They are formed when manganese rich water seeps into tiny crevices in rocks and the manganese crystals are deposited in intricate branching patterns. (Source **ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS** June 2010

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THE MINERAL RHODONITE

Chemistry: (Mn, Fe, Mg, Ca)₅(SiO₃)₅ , Manganese Iron Magnesium

Calcium Silicate.

Class: Silicates

Subclass: Inosilicates

Group: Pyroxenoid

Uses: ornamental and semi-precious stone and as a minor ore of manganese
Specimens

Rhodonite is an attractive mineral that is often carved and used in jewelry. It is named after the

(picture from Wikipedia)

Greek word for rose, *rhodon*. Its rose-pink color is distinctive and can only be confused with

rhodochrosite and the rare mineral, **pyroxmangite**, MnSiO₃. Rhodochrosite however is

streaked with white minerals such as calcite and is reactive to acids. While rhodonite does not react to acids and is usually associated with black manganese minerals and pyrite.

Pyroxmangite is a little harder to distinguish because the two minerals are closely related and xray studies are usually needed when found massive. Crystals of pyroxmangite are often twinned as is not the case with rhodochrosite crystals. Crystals of rhodonite, while not in nearly the same abundance as massive rhodonite, are still found and distributed on the mineral markets. They come from a few notable localities and are considered classics by collectors.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Color is typically pink to red or orange and even black.

Luster is vitreous to dull to pearly on polished surfaces.

Transparency: Crystals are generally translucent and rarely transparent.

Crystal System is triclinic; bar 1

Crystal Habits include crystals that have a blocky prismatic habit, however crystals are rare. More typically massive, coarse and fine granular aggregates.

Cleavage is perfect in two directions forming prisms with a rectangular cross-section.

Fracture is conchoidal.

Hardness is 5.5 - 6.5.

Specific Gravity is approximately 3.4 - 3.7+ (above average for translucent minerals)

Streak is white.

Associated Minerals are **calcite, pyrite, microcline, spessartine, pyroxmangite** and other manganese minerals.

Other Characteristics: May tarnish to a brown or black color upon exposure.

Notable Occurrences include Ural Mountains, Russia; Broken Hill, Australia; Langban, Sweden, Minas Gerais, Brazil and Massachusetts and Franklin, New Jersey, USA.

Best Field Indicators are color, black inclusions, lack of reaction to acid and hardness.

(Source Sierra Pelonagran April 2005)

Larimar

by Wendy Ansel of Rocks & Runes



Modern tradition acknowledges the diamond as the sacred stone for love and the birthstone for all born in April. Due to the coyness of the diamond industry, I am proposing an alternative for you to consider! Infinitely more rare than diamond, Larimar, a unique blue variety of pectolite, is only found one place on Earth - in the Caribbean nation of the Dominican Republic.

First recognized in 1916 by Father Miguel Domingo Fuertes Loren, and dismissed by the authorities of that day, this unusual mineral was rediscovered in 1974 by geologist Miguel Méndez and Peace Corps volunteer Norman Rilling on a Caribbean beach in the Dominican Republic. Miguel took his young daughter's name **Larissa** and the Spanish word for sea (**mar**) and formed **Larimar** - another of a number of minerals named after a person! Larimar is a variety of pectolite, formed in the vugs (in this case pockets left by volcanic activity) by a solution of sodium calcium silicate hydroxide. Although pectolite is found in many other locations, none have the unique volcanic blue coloration of Larimar.

At Rocks & Runes I teach the metaphysical properties of all of the jewels of the earth. According to my research Larimar, the stone of true love, displays the most incredible, vibrant hues of blue and white. This rare pectolite gemstone corresponds to the throat chakra (the area of the body where your communication abilities emerge) and is associated with hearing, including psychic hearing. Larimar encourages one to gently 'speak your truth' with love and compassion - enhancing open, peaceful and loving communication, the true foundation to all healthy relationships.



It facilitates the regrouping of powerful spiritual leaders. These messengers are highly practiced in the art of public speaking and are often in the public eye. Larimar breathes peace.

Because Larimar is such a beautiful stone, with a hardness of 4.5-5 on the Moh's scale, it lends itself to uses in jewelry. Through my contacts with the miners in the Dominican Republic I have been able to import a good quantity of both raw stones, cabochons and polished Larimar that is ready to wear as jewelry.

(Wendy's shop is at: **Rocks & Runes** 1006 N. Lima St.— Burbank, CA 91505, Source PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY April 2011)

WULFENITE

Some of the finest crystals of Wulfenite come from mines in Arizona and adjacent Sonora, Mexico.

Wulfenite is Lead Molybdate $Pb[MoO_4]$, and it is a secondary mineral found in the oxidation zones of Lead (Pb) deposits. It was named after its discoverer, Austrian Jesuit mineralogist Baron Franz Xavier von Wulfen. Wulfenite is soft with a Mohs' Hardness of 2.75 to 3 and brittle, so it cannot be used to make gemstones.

Also, given that these soft, beautiful crystals contain Lead, they are also poisonous, and you should definitely wash your hands after handling them.

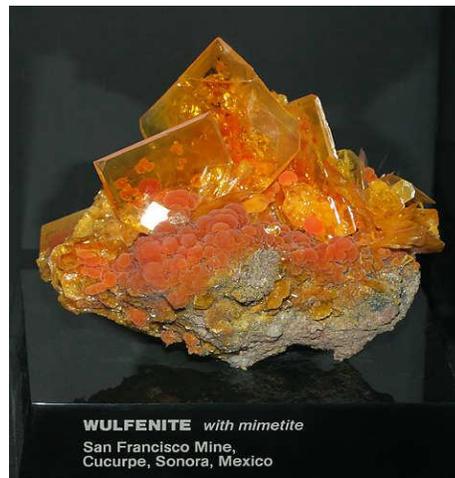
Wulfenite has a specific gravity of 6.8, so it is unusually heavy for a transparent or translucent mineral. Despite the rich color of the crystals, they have a white streak when scraped on an unglazed ceramic plate. This uncommon mineral is highly prized by collectors because of its unique lustrous, tetragonal, tabular (flat, table-like) crystals which can range in color from yellow-orange to a fiery scarlet. Most Wulfenite crystals are very small, and large ones like these that I photographed at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum are very valuable.

The Red Cloud Mine here in Arizona is renowned for the deep orange-red color of the Wulfenite found there. Attractive crystals of Wulfenite can also be found here in Pima County at the Old Yuma Mine in the Tucson Mountains and the Total Wreck and Hilton Mines in the Empire Mountains.

If you are interested in seeing these and other Wulfenite specimens, visit the mineral display at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. If you wish to purchase some Wulfenite, many nice (but expensive) specimens are for sale at the huge Tucson International Gem & Mineral Show, which runs from January 21 to February 15 at many locations around Tucson.

<http://fireflyforest.net/firefly/2006/01/17/wulfenite/>

(Source: ERGC-Pebbles Jan 2010)



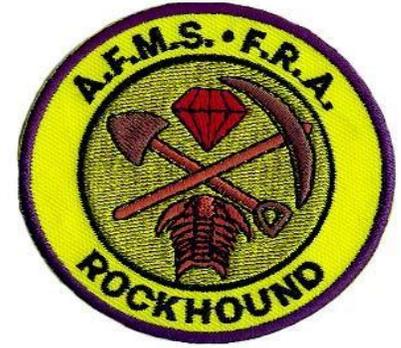
Black Opal

Black Opal is the most rare and valuable of all opals. Unlike diamonds, which are found in many areas of the world, Black Opals are only found in mining fields within a 70 kilometer radius of the town of Lightning Ridge, Australia. 99.9 percent of the world's supply of this radiant gem is mined only at Lightning Ridge, Mintabie and Andamooka. The majority of the opals found at Mintabie and Andamooka are classified as semi-black opals which show a background or body color of midgrey. Australian White Opal. Photo ©



Unlike White Opals, whose base color is the property of the structural imperfections in the stacking arrangement of the basic silica microspheres that form opal and scatter and diffract white light, Black Opals absorb most of the white light which impinges upon it, except for a fraction which is diffracted as glorious colors. These optical diffraction effects are much more brilliant because of the sharp tonal contrast with the black background. Some Black Opals have a complete rainbow of colors, while others have deep blue-green hues.

The reason for blackness in these opals is the presence of impurities of iron oxides, scattered like fine dust though the substance, in sufficient quantity to impart a jettness of color. Black Opal from Lightning Ridge also has carbon along the pseudo-crystalline boundaries. Black Opal is becoming increasingly rare and top grade Black Opal is not currently found anywhere else in Australia or in the world. Prices, depending on the quality of the solid black opal, can range from \$2,000 to over \$5,000 a carat. Information for this article came from: www.costellow.com.au; www.australianopals.com and www.opalsdownunder.com.au



TOPEKA JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TopekaJuniorRockhounds>

Topeka Junior Rockhounds

Class Calendar as of June 12, 2014

August 7, 2014 6:30 p.m. badge activity -- Gemstone Lore & Legend
Town & Country Christian Church at 4925 SW 29th St. Topeka KS.

We will look at samples of many of the "Gemstones" mentioned in the Bible and how other religions and societies used the same gems, minerals and rocks. We will also look at how changes in names through time make comparisons to modern gemstones difficult.

Other activities that can be completed for this badge include: Birthstones, Anniversary stones and minerals, and Fabled stones.

It will be taught by Prof. Will Gilliland.

Please let us know if you plan to attend the above classes.

To register for Junior Rockhounds or any of the classes, email Shirley Schulz, Program Secretary sschulz@kdheks.gov

Call Dave Dillon 272-7804, for information on lapidary classes.

Dino Definitions

- The smallest dinosaur is the little plant-eater Lesothosaurus, which was only the size of a chicken.
- The heaviest dinosaur was Brachiosaurus who weighed the equivalent of 17 African Elephants.
- The longest dinosaur was Seismosaurus, as long as five double-decker busses.
- The dumbest dinosaur was the Stegosaurus who had a brain the size of a walnut.
- The smartest dinosaur was Troodon, a hunting dinosaur with a brain the size of a bird or mammal today.
- The oldest dinosaurs are 230 million years old and have been found in Madagascar. They haven't been formally named but are known as Eoraptor, meaning "dawn thief."
- The dinosaur with the longest name is Micropachycephalosaurus meaning "tiny thick-headed lizard."
- The fiercest dinosaur is not Tyrannosaurus Rex who looked very ferocious, but in terms of overall cunning, determination and its array of vicious weapons, the Utahraptor was probably the fiercest of all dinosaurs.

Information for this article came from: www.thedinosaurmuseum.com

(Source: Pick and Hammer March 2013)