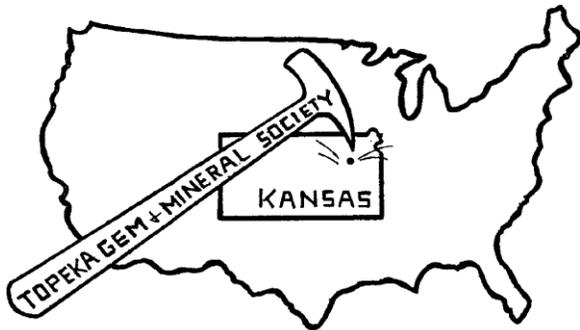


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

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. 58, No. 02, Feb. 2015

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.**

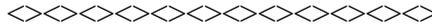
2015 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

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	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	Chuck Curtis	286-1790	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	George Reed	836-9277	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	open	-----	Show Case Coordinator	Francis Stockton	913-645-7677
Web Master	Jason Schulz	379-5538			

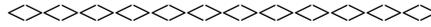
Area Code for all numbers is (785).

EXCHANGE BULLETINS WELCOME

For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above or email at rock2plate@aol.com .
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

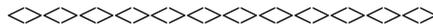


We still need Best Choice UPS Labels before Cinda can turn them in.
Bring them in at the next meeting.



Make Welcome Our New Member!

Shari Hagen, Lawrence, KS.

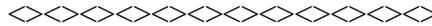


Words From the President.....

Happy Valentines Day to everyone! I was real happy how you all came to spend your extra cash at the January Silent Auction. We made \$130.75. The piece of rock that I bought was real good. I hope you all can make it to the next meeting on February 27th. I want to thank Beth Meyer for bring the Montana Agates for everyone to have at the January meeting. That was very thoughtful.

V♥lunteering is the heart beat of ♥ur club.

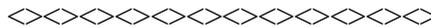
Mike and his Rock Stash!



Words from our V. P.

I have nothing new to report at this time. Our classes will not be until April. Mike will state when they will start up again. I know that we are going to start casting again this spring. Look forward to seeing everyone at our monthly meeting!!

Dave!



TLC



Donna Stockton spent last week in the hospital in Lawrence, with numerous ailments.
Francis Stockton had his second cataract surgery this past Monday.
Charlie Sowell had foot surgery last week and we wish him a speedy recovery.
Deborah Scanland I hear is recovering from pneumonia.

We hope everyone else is staying well.

I ran across a 190 page booklet online that details all sorts of variations of Lake Superior agates. It has lots of color pictures. For those who are interested, the booklet is available in pdf format online at..... <http://rockhoundstation1.com/pdfs-etc/June2009.pdf>

Field Trip Calendar - October 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.

An up-to-date Calendar can be found on the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Website:

<http://topekagemandmineral.org/calendar.html>

Public Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Topeka-Gem-and-Mineral-Society-Field-Trips/92795058262>

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

- February 28, Field Trip TBA
- March 3, 7:00 p.m. Fossil Special Interest Group, Show & Tell, at Baker's Dozen,
- March 17, 7:00 p.m. Fossil Special Interest Group, Show & Tell, at Baker's Dozen,
- March 20-23, Arkansas Diamond Mine

Additional Show Dates:

April 4-5, 2015 57th Annual Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Show, Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln, NE. Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.lincolngemmineralclub.org

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



Crater of Diamonds State Park Murfreeshboro, Arkansas



Five occupancies are available at a rented cabin.
First five \$50. Deposits reserves a spot

Additional motel: Queen of Diamonds, Murfreeshboro, Arkansas

TOPEKA JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

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

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

Classes start at 6:30pm at the Town & Country Christian Church, 4925 SW 29th Street. The Topeka Junior Rockhound Advisors will meet at 6:30 pm.

Junior Rockhounds are encouraged to attend the club meetings to receive Patches and Badges.

March 5th class will be Fossils by Larry Henderson AT 6:30 pm





YOUR DUES ARE DUE!

As of December 31st all members that joined before October of 2014, your dues are now due. If you have any questions---call me at 267-2849 or email me at rock2plate@aol.com. Each of you should have a membership card with the due date on it.



IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID BY FEBURARY 28TH YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE ROSTER.

Millie Mowry, Treasurer



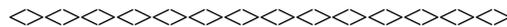
CABOCHON CUTS

Before the art of gem cutting was well developed, the naturally occurring gem minerals were smoothed or rounded off and polished by crude methods. At an early date gems were drilled or pierced and used as drops. The old, rounded forms of cutting still survive the various types of cabochon cuts. These included the double or convex cabochon, and the hollow or concave cabochon. The outline of gems cut in any of the above cabochon style may be circular, elliptical, or oval, as one looks down upon the stone.

Save money & time and get thousands of lapidary tips by getting a copy of "**Gem Cutting, A Lapidary's Manual**" by **John Sinkankas, copyright 1984**. This wonderful 365 page book has so many useful tips and suggestions covering information on sawing, grinding, lapping, sanding, polishing, drilling, cabochons, faceting, equipment, spheres, beads, tumbling, carving, engraving, mosaic, inlay, and much more such as how to make your own tools, how to polish difficult materials such as jade and rhodonite which tend to undercut, etc. *The tips are from Hellgate Breezes 2/2002 via North Idaho Mineral Club- Sept.2002*

To remove saw oil from your slabs, immediately place the slab in kitty litter or any type of oil dry and completely cover the slab for at least one half hour, then wash with soapy cool/warm water (not hot or possible fracturing of your slab will occur) and then scrub with a brush. If the oil is still noticeable, use a cleansing powder and brush again and rinse.

When making cabochons, grind a bevel around the bottom sharp edge of the stone as it could otherwise "chip" when setting.
(The above tips are from *Hellgate Breezes 2/2002 via North Idaho Mineral Club- Sept.2002: The Ammonite Feb 2015*)



*At Sunday School they were teaching how God
created everything, including human beings.
Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they
told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.
Later in the week his mother noticed him lying
down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?'
Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'
(Internet Humor)*

Dangerous Rocks and Minerals

by EGMS member Tera Brockway

It's hard not to get caught up and excited when you are pulling buried treasure out of the earth, or tripping on your next big find while out on a hike. For the most part, we never have to worry about picking up a rock and worrying that it might kill us. At least not where we live. But the reality is, some rocks and minerals are quite dangerous, even deadly! Being quite new at all this, I shamefully admit, I would never know a deadly, glistening rock, if it fell right on my head. I would happily pick it up, admire it and stick it in my pocket to take home and find out what it is... hopefully it would not be too late!

So, that being said, here are the top ten I found to be dangerous and deadly!

Probably a better feature for Halloween but I'm off to a late start, so bare with me folks.

Counting down!

10 Coloradoite- A very attractive crystalline mineral which is a mercury telluride compound, recently discovered in magma veins. Here's a little science tidbit; when mercury and telluride fuse, its just not a good combination for your health! Worse yet, if this "rock" is heated or chemically altered, the fumes and or dust can be fatal.

9 Chalcanthite- This crystal is just breath taking. Its cobalt blue color resting on a fiery red pedestal is just memorizing! I like to think of this one as the fem fatale of the rock world. She is alluring, intoxicating and yep; toxic! She draws you in with her beauty and can slowly kill you with her toxic poisonous mixture of copper and sulfur. No taste testing this little gem. She is known to end life as we know it in entire ponds with her toxic combination. Mother natures reminder for every good there is a bad.

8 Hutchinsonite- This one really packs a punch! Its long, shiny pencil lead like crystals make up a deadly cocktail no one wants to be served! Here we have a combination of Thallium (which we will get back to), lead and arsenic! We already know how fun lead and arsenic can be but thallium takes the cake folks. Thallium is basically leads evil twin. When exposed you can experience all sorts of unwanted side effects. Hair loss, severe illness and even death. It reminds me of an excerpt from nuclear exposer. Mix all three and watch what happens! Maybe this is where someone got the idea for zombies. I bet anyone exposed to this surely would look like one.

#7 Galena- This is one I believe someone actually brought in during the September meeting, which I think I touched. I'm doing alright though, no side effects so maybe I needed to lick it or something. Who knows! Joking aside, this cubical crystal always reminds me of something from a scifi movie or transformers. I keep expecting it to go from a one inch cube to a giant robot that speaks to me! Galena is the principle of ore lead and has a sulfur content. Lead as we know is very pliable but the sulfur in this makes it very brittle and chemically reactive. The brittle nature creates a toxic dust if broken off from itself and we don't need to be reminded what lead and sulfur do to us.

The interesting geek fact about this interesting cubical crystal is that if shattered, it breaks off into more tiny cubes instead of shards and miss shaped pieces!

#6 Asbestos- since this is really so well known, I am just including this but not explaining. Though I can say this mineral is literally quite a stunner, it looks like spun threads of silver all mashed together. It is really a reminder of even though nature is stunning, it can definitely be deadly so look out!

#5 Arsenopyrite- (fools gold with a twist) also better known as Arsenic, iron sulfide I admit as a kid I never would have imagined fool's gold was dangerous! Another mineral we don't need to dwell on, arsenic isn't exactly a stranger to us. Interesting fact: which I don't recommend doing since it's incredibly toxic, is the identification of this deadly "gold" is that when struck with a hammer you will smell garlic with some brief flying sparks. I think I'll just pass and take their word for it.

#4 Torbernite- AKA the mineral from hell. These opaque green cubes contain uranium! Fun stuff! Through a complex reaction between phosphorous, copper water and uranium you get that interesting green composition. Who wouldn't want to pick it up and take it home? Interesting fact: Torbonite can be found in granite. Anyone at home have granite countertops? Might want to see if there are any flecks of green in them; it has literally been found in them. Radon gas for dinner anyone?

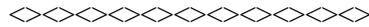
#3 Stibnite- As funny looking as it is to say. This gorgeous, sword like, silver spiky crystal reminds me of a sea urchin or a hedgehog. It is an antimony sulfide. Antimony is a chemical element that gives this its silver appearance. It is the silver appearance that once made intelligent human beings back in the day make eating utensils out of them. Little did they know the laced crystals were deadly, killing quite a good amount of people before it dawned on them it might be what they were eating off of. It is HIGHLY advised to handle with care and always wash before eating... but not off of Stibnite silverware of course.

#2 Orpiment- Probably the ugly duckling of this bunch. The chalky, orange composition makes it very clear that it is loaded with sulphur. It is not surprisingly found near hydrothermal vents and if held, gives off a carcinogenic and deadly

arsenic powder. The Chinese recognized its lethal power in ancient times and would lace arrows with its powder to poison their enemies! It has also been known to be used in ochre paint and likely killed many artists who used it. Poetic death? Or just unfair? This mineral also gives off a garlic aromatic and interestingly, the mineral will crumble and turn to a poisonous powder when exposed to light! So best to keep this one underground where it belongs!

#1 Cinnabar- Simply stunning with its red cinnamon color, it's no wonder the ancients used it to carve into such beautiful things. Cinnabar is probably well known to rock hounds but just in case, it is mercury sulfide. A not so fun combination! Lethal and strangely used in ancient times as Chinese medicine and even ornamental dishes! The intricate carvings are just as stunning as the cinnabar itself but I'd definitely hate to be the one invited to that dinner! So remember, not all minerals are safe, so be careful out there and happy hunting!

(Source: Hour Glass News, Nov-Dec 2014)



Using a Jig (tool)

by Mary Walters

Wikipedia says: A jig's primary purpose is to provide repeatability, accuracy, and interchangeability in the manufacturing of products. A jig is often confused with a fixture; a fixture holds the work in a fixed location. A device that does both functions (holding the work and guiding a tool) is called a jig.

An example of a jig is when a key is duplicated, the original is used as a jig so that the new key can have the same path as the old one. Since the advent of automation and computer numerical controlled (CNC) machines, jigs are often not required because the tool path is digitally programmed and stored in memory. Jigs may be made for reforming plastics. Jigs or templates have been known long before the industrial age. There are many types of jig, and each one is custom-tailored to do a specific job. Many jigs are created because there is a necessity to do so by the tradesmen.

Some are made to increase productivity through consistency, to do repetitive activities or to do a job more precisely. Jigs may be well made for frequent use or may be improvised from scrap for a single project, depending on the task. Some types of jigs are also called templates or guides. Jigs include machining jigs, woodworking jigs (e.g. tapering jig), welders' jigs, jewelers' jigs, and many others. Jigs are a great way to duplicate a jewelry component when you need several to complete your project. There are various types and manufacturers of jigs to use in making your jewelry. Some of the different ones are WigJig, Thing-a-ma-jig, Big Jig, Coiling Gizmo, Crinkler, Spiral Maker, Jump Ring Mandrel/Maker and Wire Twister to name a few.



Several years ago, jewelry maker Marj Helwig became fascinated with wire links but she was also frustrated with her inability to consistently make the same components by hand. Marj's son Gary made a wooden prototype in his basement to his mom's specs. The jig worked so well and so many of Marj's friends wanted one that an entrepreneurial venture seemed a natural next step. What to name Marj's invention? Given her last name, "Wigjig" seemed the natural choice.

Five years and six custom jigs later, WigJigs are a family business. Ideas for their specialty jigs originate from frustrations and inspirations in their own jewelry making.

The Helwigs offer jig classes and are thrilled to receive letters and photos from jewelry designers around the country. "Making jig links really isn't hard to do," says Suzanne Helwig. "Good results generally require only two to four hours of practice."

We'll be looking at some of the most popular jigs and learning how they can be used in creating jewelry designs.

Here is a photo of some of the pieces our Mary has been working on so diligently prior to this presentation.



There are earrings made on the jig and a coil made from a coiling gizmo which she will also be demonstrating. And here are a few more examples of what you can do using a jig.



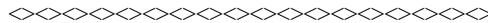
There are several types of wire that www.artisticwire.com), sterling sources including www.firemountaingems.com , and You can also use copper wire that's we have found that to be a little too Copper wire is also available from There are many good web sites that part of our lapidary/jewelry hobby:



can be used used in these projects: Artistic Wire (silver or silver plated wire available from many www.riogrande.com , from www.artbeads.com to mention just a few. available from your local hardware store although soft. many bead sources and should be sturdier. you can check for further information about this

1. www.artbeads.com -- They sell Artistic Wire and Wig Jig products and have a few patterns in their "Learning Center".
 2. www.wigjig.com -- "the original inventor of the wigjig". This web site is great. They have a shopping area (of course), sections for beginners, videos, jewelry techniques, designs, home decor designs, holiday designs and their own blog!
 3. www.beadalon.com -- They sell a "deluxe Thing-a-ma-Jig that is similar to the Beadsmith Thing-a-ma-Jig. They may be the same item as Beadsmith is wholesale only. You can check out both. Beadalon also has a design workshop and a blog specifically geared to their products.
 4. www.thewirewizard.com -- This brand is from way back (got mine in 2003) and their web site also has supplies, a gallery, tips and ideas and lots of great stuff for sale. There is a good article about wire also.
- Now, remember, in this as in anything worth doing, practice makes perfect. Each and every design that you try will be a new learning experience. This is a fun and "well worth-the-effort technique so after our meeting, you really should give it a try.

(Source: Hour Glass News Jan 2013)



TGMS Junior Rockhounds and their leaders during class.



Meeting of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society – 1/23/15

Mike Cote' called the meeting to order.

Jason announced 40 members & 2 guests are present for the meeting, door prizes were awarded. (We need more door prizes – bring them to the next meeting!)

The minutes from the November meeting were printed in The Drifter. Chuck made a motion and Jason 2nd to accept as printed.

Millie Mowry gave the treasurers report, also reminders that dues are due. No bills were presented. Motion was made to accept the report, by Harold and Chuck 2nd, motion carried.

Correspondence: Millie received an email from Enid OK club about a raffle. She also has coupons for the Kansas City show.

Committee reports: Show – Dave – the Expo Centre has raised the rent for the show by 1,200.00 this year. The show committee will decide if we will raise the dealer fees. If you are handy with repair jobs, have tools, like to paint, plan to help in the future with repairing the cases for the show. We will replace hardware and paint the cases as needed.

AFMS-Cinda, still collecting Best Choice labels, but thinks she has enough to send in for our rebate.

Field Trip-Larry is planning to go to the quarry in Lyon County for this month's field trip. Crater of Diamonds trip in March – see the calendar for details. Junior Rockhounds - tonight there are 3 in the activity center working on crystals. They have a new member – Nick. Three Junior Rockhound badges were awarded to Zach – congratulations! We have other badges, but no one was here to receive them.

New Business – Chuck announced that the audit was conducted on the club and show accounts and all was good. Dave announced that Millie was distributing the budget worksheets. We need to work hard to get more money coming in for the show, with the rent being raised by the County Commissioner's, we are open to suggestions. Beth suggested finding a different place to hold the show. Millie has contacted the agent at the Expo Centre to see if we can get it lowered. Dave needs to get the contracts out to the dealers, so we will plan on the Expo Centre for this year. Harold moved and Carolyn seconded the club budget, Chuck moved and Rick & Harold seconded the show budget. Both motions carried. Beth announced she brought Montana Agates & Jaspers to share with everyone. Larry met with the director at the Children's Discovery Center, they are wanting displays for the week of spring break March 16-20th. We could set up a table during that time, let him know if you want to help. They are interested in partnering with us and will have information available about our club and Jr Rockhounds.

With no further business, Chuck moved the meeting be adjourned, Carolyn 2nd, motion carried. Carolyn introduced our - program tonight is Silent Auction.

Fred announced the Cab of the Month Winners are:

Member Cab: Dave Dillon – Picture Jasper, Member Jewelry: Dave Dillon – Sterling & Opal Ring. Class Jewelry: Yvonne Vanmeter- Blue Victoria Stone cast Silver ring, Class Cab: Yvonne Vanmeter – Bloodstone.

Respectfully submitted by Cinda Kunkler, Secretary



Happy Valentine's Day!