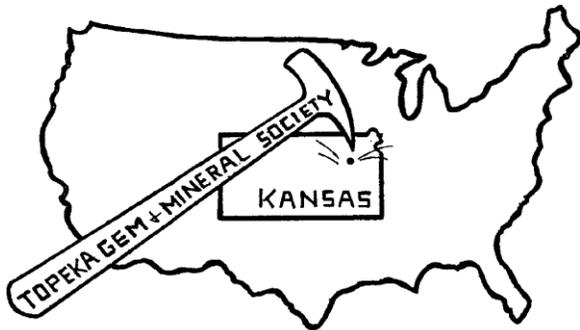


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

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. 08, Aug. 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.



Meeting of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society – No meeting in July



We will be filling the 651 grab bags that Millie and her sewing team has ready at the August picnic. Whew! That is a lot of grab bags! And I'm sure you do not want to miss out on all the fun of filling them.

There will also be sign-up sheets for the show and we need everyone's help this year. If you can work a couple of hours either Saturday or Sunday or both days it will greatly be appreciated. Call or email Millie for your choice of times to work.

The September meeting will be held at the Stauffer Science Hall room 138 and the program will be a Silent Auction. Dave and I have picked up some interesting items for the auction and hope that you will join us. If you have any items you wish to donate to the Club's auction, please bring it September 25th.

Mike and his Rock Stash!



Words from our V. P.

Classes are still going on and several new projects are being done. Hopefully we will be doing some casting in the fall. Summer has been too hot for that right now. Remember our show is in October and we will be needing help setting up and taking down. We will have sign-up sheets at our meetings and our last picnic. Hope your summer has been going great for you. Dave-



This Is The Last Picnic This Year Don't Miss It!



Bring your favorite picnic food to share, along with your own table service (plate, silverware, cups). Tea & coffee will be furnished. Time & Date: August 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at my house—1934 SW 30th Street, Topke, KS. (Between MacVicar and Burlingame Rd.) Your spouse is welcome to come even though they might not be a member and also your children. We eat inside where it is cool unless you want to eat on the patio. Hope to see you all on the 28th.

Millie Mowry

We still need Best Choice UPS Labels!



The following article is from the RMFMS Directory.

RMFMS Annual Meeting was held in Cody WY July 16-18, 2015. We had two delegates attending: Harold Merrifield and Chuck Curtis. I also was present at the meeting as Historian for the RMFMS. From our RMFMS Directory the AFMS Scholarship Foundation is explained, it will follow.

I just wanted to point out one of the Committee Reports from Sandy Cannedy the RMFMS Scholarship Chairperson from the convention. Her report shows that she has received the following since Nov.1, 2014 thru April 25, 2015:

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club (Show Low AZ)	\$500.00 2100%
Rocky Mountain Federation	\$1763.84
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society	\$325.00 38000%
Topeka Gem & Mineral Society	\$483.61 11300%
Shawnee Gem & Mineral Society	\$100.00 4000%

3 of the clubs are from Kansas! The total clubs that supported the Scholarship Fund in the RMFMS in this time period is only 4 out of approximately 79 – way to go Kansas! Now of course, I really need to check the records to see what was reported from prior periods.

Cinda Kunkler, Secretary TGMS / Historian RMFMS



The T-Shirts are here, so for those who have ordered them, contact Millie for pick-up.



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



What Are Volunteers?

Volunteers are like Ford
 They have better ideas.
 Volunteers are like coke
 They're the real thing.
 Volunteers are like Pan Am
 They make the going great.
 Volunteers are like Dial Soap
 They care more, don't you wish everybody did?
 Volunteers are like VO-5 Hair Spray
 They hold up in all kinds of weather.
 Volunteers are like Hallmark Cards
 They care enough to give the very best.
 Volunteers are like Standard Oil
 You expect more and you get it.
 BUT MOST OF ALL.....
 Volunteers are like Frosted Flakes
They're GRRRRREEAAAATTT!!!!

Author not given

T-Town Rockhound 01/04 via Roamin Rams 2/04

THE EXTRAORDINARY QUALITIES OF ORDINARY STONES

As compiled by the Roman writer, Pliny the Elder (23 AD-79 AD)

Eyed Agate will ward off the Evil Eye. No Whammy's if you wear one.

Carrying an arrow-head will ward off lightning.

Moss Agate worn as a gem will prevent spider or scorpion bites.

Solid color Agate worn by a wrestler makes him invincible.

An Amber Necklace will prevent colds, asthma and whooping cough.

Wearing an Amethyst will prevent a drinker from getting stoned.

An Amethyst Necklace, if strung on a baboon's hair or a swallow's feather, is positive protection against poison.

An Iris Agate gem protects the wearer against wild beasts.

Jet worn as a gem protects against all forms of witchcraft - except of course, falling in love.

Alabaster & Rock Salt, powdered together and washed down with water, will cure a toothache.

A Garnet worn by anyone protects against nightmares.

Sharks Teeth, worn as a gem, assures success in courtship.

Coral worn as a gem protects the wearer from lightning and storms.

Bloodstone worn by a warrior makes him invisible to his enemies.

Wearing an Ammonite as a gem assures dreams which foretell the future.

Jewels of either Hematite or Red Jasper assures success in either war or law suits.

But don't wear Mutilated quartz as a gem - it will make your hair fall out.

Moss Agate burned under a tree will assure that the axe used to chop down the tree will not become dull.

Jet, if burned, will drive away snakes. Boiled in wine it cures toothaches; mixed with wax and burned cures scrofula?

Still and all, there is nothing better than a clove of Garlic, installed above your front door, to ward off the Evil Eye and all Witches.

Researched by Floyd Oles in Puget Sounder, via CONTACT ZONE 3/83; reprint from Glacial Drifter 0/1984



Bench Tip By Brad

'Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon'
www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/

TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc.

If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

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SOLVENT DISPENSER

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like an alcohol lamp or one of the nail polish bottles that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes can't be too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents you frequently use. It has a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop.

There are many suppliers on Google. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at www.carolina.com The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 ml.



Field Trip Calendar

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

August 29, Field Trip TBA

- **Additional Show Dates:**

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

Aug 20-23 Woodland Park, CO Woodland Park Saddle Club grounds 19570 E Hwy 24 Free, woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com

Aug 21-23 Lake George, CO, Lot next to Lake George Post Office 3820 Hwy 24 LGGMClub.org

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.

Junior Rockhounds can get help on their collections.

August 18, 7:00 p.m. September 1, 7:00 p.m.



TOPEKA JUNIOR ROCKHOUIDS

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.



Junior Rockhounds --- We need your help.

Make up a poster board display for the September Junior Rockhound Roundup and the October Gem & Mineral society show. Earn credit toward Badge 7, Communication.

Junior Rockhound Roundup

of the Topeka Gem & Mineral Society

Saturday, September 19, 2015

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
1515 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, Kansas

Interested in Rocks?

Interested in Earth Science?

For youth under 18 Years old, and their parents.

See classes that are being held this coming year.



Start a rock collection.



Start a fossil collection.



Learn about polishing gems.

Learn how to pan for Gold.



Learn how to screen for gems.

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

RHODOCHROSITE

Rhodochrosite is one of the prettiest and desirable of all minerals. Its deep red and hot pink crystals are extremely sought after and good crystals command extremely high prices. Especially desirable are the beautiful intensely colored rhombohedrons from the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado. This mine provided a fascinating discovery in the 1960's of some of the largest and most stunning Rhodochrosite crystals ever found. The largest Rhodochrosite crystal, called the "Alma King", is a single 15 cm crystal that was found in the Sweet Home Mine in 1992. A very interesting occurrence of this mineral is in Argentina, where Rhodochrosite forms stalagmites and stalac-tites in the 13th century Inca Silver mines. They formed from precipitating water dripping from the manganese-rich rock inside the ancient mine tunnels, and kept on growing over the centuries into large stalagmites. These stalagmites are beautifully banded with concentric growth layers and are often sliced and polished into slabs for collectors.

Rhodochrosite belongs to the calcite group of minerals, a group of related carbonates that are isomorphous with one another. They are similar in many physical properties, and may partially or fully replace one another, forming a solid solution series. All members of the calcite group crystallize in the trigonal system, have perfect rhombohedral cleavage, and exhibit strong double refraction.

When Rhodochrosite is exposed to the atmosphere, it may develop a thin film of manganese oxide on its surface. This may slightly darken the color of a specimen. Rhodochrosite sometimes alters into black manganese oxides (such as Pyrolusite, Manganite, and Psilomelane), and black manganese oxide stains are usually associated with Rhodochrosite.

(This article is used with the permission of the author, Hershel Friedman, of www.minerals.net. Our readers are urged to visit this fascinating website and learn about other interesting minerals. The cover photo is by Herman Friedman.: via Rockhound Ramblings July 2011)



Agate

Agate, with a chemical formula SiO_2 (silicon dioxide) is a microcrystalline variety of quartz (silica), chiefly chalcedony, characterized by its fineness of grain and brightness of color and having a hardness of 6.5 - 7 on the Mohs scale. Although agates may be found in various kinds of rock, they are classically associated with volcanic rocks and certain metamorphic rocks.

The stone was given its name by Theophrastus, a Greek philosopher and naturalist, who discovered the stone along the shore line of the river Achatos (now called Dirillo), in Sicily, sometime between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.

Most agates occur as nodules in volcanic rocks or ancient lavas where they represent cavities in the molten mass which were then filled, wholly or partially, by waters containing silica in solution deposited in regular layers upon the walls. Such agates, when cut transversely, exhibit a succession of parallel lines, often giving a banded appearance to the section. Such stones are known as banded agate, ribbon agate and striped agate.



The first deposit on the wall of a cavity, forming the "skin" of the agate, is generally a dark greenish mineral substance, rich in iron and often pitted and rough. Many agates are hollow, since deposition has not proceeded far enough to fill the cavity, and in such cases the last deposit commonly consists of quartz, often amethyst, having the apices of the crystals directed towards the free space so as to form a crystal-lined cavity, or geode. On the disintegration of the matrix in which the agates are embedded, they are set free. The agates are extremely resistant to weathering and remain as nodules in the soil or are deposited as gravel in streams and shorelines.

We give names to various types of agate. A Mexican agate, showing only a single eye, has received the name of *cyclops agate*. Included matter of a green, golden, red, black or other color disposed in filaments and other forms suggestive of vegetable growth, gives rise to the names of dendritic or moss agate. Other types of included matter deposited during agate-building include sagenitic growths (radial mineral crystals). Turritella agate is formed from silicified fossil shells. Occasionally agate fills a void left by decomposed vegetative material such as a tree limb or root and is called limb cast agate due to its appearance. Similarly, coral, petrified wood and other organic remains or porous rocks can also become agatized. Agatized coral is often referred to as Petoskey stone. Greek agate is a name given to pale white to tan colored agate found in Sicily back to 400 B.C. Today any agate of this color from Sicily, once an ancient Greek colony, is called Greek agate. Yet the stone had been around centuries before that and was known to both the Sumerians and the Egyptians, who used the gem for decoration and religious ceremony.



Another type of agate is Brazilian agate, which is found as sizable geodes of layered nodules. These occur in brown or green tones interlayered with other colors. Quartz forms within these nodules, creating a striking specimen when cut opposite the layered growth axis. It is often dyed in various colors for ornamental purposes. Certain stones, when examined in thin sections by transmitted light, show a spectrum diffraction due to the extreme delicacy of the successive bands, whence they are termed *rainbow agates*. Often agate coexists with layers or masses of opal, jasper or crystalline quartz due to ambient variations during the formation process. Other forms of agate include Montana agate, carnelian agate (usually exhibiting reddish hues), Botswana agate, Ellensburg blue agate, blue lace agate, plume agates, tube agate (with visible flow channels), fortification agate (which exhibit little or no layered structure), *fire agate* (which seems to glow internally like an opal) and Mexican

crazy-lace agate (which exhibits an often brightly colored, complex banded pattern) also called Rodeo Agate or Rosetta Stone.



A Lake Superior agate is shown here.

Agates are chiefly used to make ornaments such as pins, brooches, paper knives, inkstands, marbles and seals. Because of its hardness and ability to resist acids, agate is used to make mortars and pestles to crush and mix chemicals. Because of the high polish possible with agate it has been used for centuries for leather burnishing tools. Agates have long been used in arts and crafts. The sanctuary of a Presbyterian church in Ya-chats, Oregon, has six windows with panes made of agates collected from the local beaches.

See Wikipedia.com/agates for more information on this interesting stone! (Rockhound Ramblings March 2011)

