The Topeka Gem & 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 Trips

The Glacial Drifter, Vol. 55, No. 5, June 2012

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Organized December 3, 1948
Member of Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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; (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, except December, unless notified of a change, September – May, 7:30 pm, Stoffer Science Hall, Room 138, Washburn University. Picnic meetings held during summer months, June – August.

Dues: Individual, $15.00; Husband and wife, $20.00; Junior (under 18 years of age), $5.00. Dues are due in December for the coming year; they are delinquent after the January meeting. Send dues to Millie Mowry, Treasurer 1934 SW 30th St., Topeka, KS 66611.

2012 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Mike Cote`	220-3272	Cab the Month	Debra Franz/Fred Zeferjohn	862-8876
1st Vice Pres.	Dave Dillon	272-7804	Field Trip Coordinator	Larry Henderson	272-8444
2nd Vic Pres.	Carolyn Brady	233-8305	Publicity	Christy Bien	608-1890
Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Welcome/Registration	Debra Franz	862-8876
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	M. Cote`/D. Dillon	220-3272
Directors	Jim Mowry	267-2849	AFMS Scholarship	Louellen Montgomery	354-1290
	Clyde Burton	478-4778	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	George Reed	836-9277	Show Chairman	Harold Merrifield	286-3548
Historian	Freda Tabor	273-0691	Show Dealer Chrm.	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Federation Rep	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849			
Librarian	Jim & Millie Mowry	267-2849			

Area Code for all numbers is 785.

Meeting Minutes of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society

Meeting of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society – May 25, 2012

Mike Cote' called the meeting to order.
Debbie Franz reports there are 24 members present. Door prizes were awarded.
Millie Mowry made a motion to accept the minutes of our last meeting as printed in The Drifter, 2nd and motion carried.
Millie Mowry gave the treasurers report. Dave Dillon moved to accept the report, 2nd and motion carried. No bills were presented. She will be sending The Drifter out by email to save on postage. Please make sure she has the correct email addresses.
Correspondence – Flyers for upcoming shows/swaps. Dave reported Beth Cooper had a garage sale with rocks & fossils, if you want to make an appointment to see what she has, contact him for the information.
Committee reports: Larry Henderson-the field trip this Saturday, will be a local hunt and a trip to Buffalo Mound. He is hoping to make a trip to So. Dakota to hunt for Fairburn Agate around June 16 & 17 contact him if interested. He has pictures of the badges available from AFMS for children to earn if interested.
Show Committee – Harold Merrifield-nothing to report. Dave reported we have 11 dealers and 1 demo dealer, we need 5 more. He has sent out contracts again. We may need to work on cases to have them ready for the show.
Scholarship – Louellen Montgomery sent a personal donation in memory of Howell Whiting & Bill Burns.
Historian: Freda Taber – nothing to report. Debbie Scanland is scanning historical documents and would like pictures of past presidents, she & Millie have a list of the ones she needs.
New Business: Dave reports that Fred Zepherjohn has copies of a CD on Indian Jewelry available to purchase. All money will go with the money donated by the class for the purchase of another grinder. With no further business Dave Dillon moved and Harold Merrifield 2nd to adjourn to our program. The program this evening is Jim Baer with a talk on precious metal & metal clay.

Cab of the Month contest winners are:
Member Cab – George Reed – Jasper
Member Jewelry – Dave Dillon – Fordite Pendant
Class Cab – Mike Scott – Blood Stone
Class Jewelry – Dawn Blair – Wrapped Biggs Jasper

Respectfully submitted by Cinda Kunkler, Secretary

From the President's Rock Stash

We had a fantastic program by from Jim Baer on PMC. I'm sure everyone enjoyed it. Thanks Jim. Hope everyone has a wonderful summer. We will still have classes this summer. See ya all at the summer picnics and at the meeting in Sept.

Mike Cote & the Rock Stash

LESSONS

Classes are now being held at Mike Cote house. His mailing address is 4910 Clark Rd. Meriden, Kansas 66512. He has a large Morton building that we are using. Everyone is very pleased with the larger space we now have. It is still on Tuesday night from 6-9. Do a map quest to get driving directions or call Mike at 220-3272.

Dave Dillon, davidd5124@aol.com Mike Cote`, mcote35@yahoo.com

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Dates to Remember

Show Dates:

June 22-24 Colo. Springs, CO. Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 Northgate Blvd. info@csms.com or www.csms.us

July 14-15 Tulsa, OK., Rock & Mineral Show, Exchange Center 1, Expo Square, 21st & Yale, www.ttownrockhound.org for more information.

Scheduled TGMS Field Trips

We meet at McDonalds, 11th and Kansas Ave.

June 23 Local Field Trip 8:30 a.m. McDonalds

Other Opportunities

June 30-1 Osage Beach, MO. Annual Show Contact Roger Varvel 417-532-4367 or Email: ormc2012show@centurylink.net

July 6-8 Durango, CO. Annual Show Contact Toby Mourning 970-385-8993 or Email info@durangorocks.org

What to bring on Fossil Hunting Trips:

Something to pry fossils out of the ground. Long screwdriver, rock hammer, or pry bar
Something to put items in. Plastic bags, boxes, bucket, Eye protection, Magnifying glass,

Personal gear:

Hat, to shade sun, Suntan Lotion, Bug repellent. Wear sturdy shoes.

Trips dates are tentative and subject to additions and change. Call or e-mail Larry if you have an interest in any of these trips 272-8444 or LHenderson85@gmail.com

Larry Henderson, Field Trip Chairman

Hiccups Cure

A man goes into a drugstore and asks the pharmacist if he can give him something for the hiccups. The pharmacist promptly reaches out and slaps the man's face.

"What did you do that for?" the man asks. "Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?"

The man says, "No, but my wife out in the car still does!" Internet Humor

We need your **BEST CHOICE UPC Labels** --- Bring them to the monthly meeting.

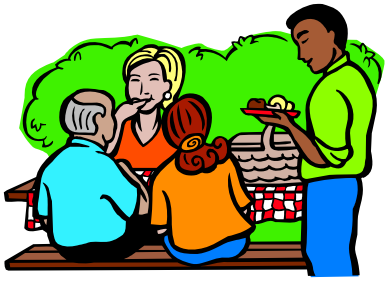
TLC Report

Condolences go out to Lucy Sterpenig & Roger Wake with the passing of her mother in California.

*** Attention Members ***

To save some money we are going to start sending out the Drifter by email. To be sure you receive yours....make sure we have the correct one. If you do not receive your copy.....contact Millie at rock2plate@aol.com.

Summer Picnic Time is Here



For the months of June, July and August, we have a picnic instead of a formal meeting on the 4th Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Millie's house, 1934 SW 30th St.

Bring: your own table service, plate, cup, silverware & napkins.
Bring: a pot-luck dish or two to share
Bring: your own soda (coffee and ice tea will be furnished)

The next scheduled meeting will be on September 28th at the Stoffer Science Hall at Washburn University at 7:30 p.m.

Come and have a good time!

This is the letter from the recipient of our scholarship for this year at Kansas State University

1830 301h Road
Marquette, Kansas 67464
2012-2013 Academic Year

Dear Topeka Gem & Mineral Society Inc. ATTN: Millie Mowry

I would like to thank you for choosing me to be the recipient of a scholarship. It is a great honor to have you donate, both to my education and future. With the price of college increasing almost every year, this generosity is such a blessing to receive. Four years ago, I never thought I would be sending an email to thank someone for awarding me a scholarship in the field of Geology. My freshman year in college I had decided to take a risk and declare my major with no real idea of what I was getting myself into. It was one of the best decisions I have made. During the past three years in this major I have become very interested in how the world works and why it is the way it is, and geology has provided many answers to my questions.

This coming year I will be in my final year of being an undergraduate at Kansas State University with a GPA of 3.39. It is quite a coincidence that my brother, being a senior in Civil Engineering at Kansas State, also has a GPA of 3.39. We grew up together in a small town called Marquette in central Kansas; raised by our mother with the help of our family, which all reside near our town. It was in high school, Smoky Valley High, that I saw my desire to go to Kansas State grow. At that time, I thought that my mom and grandma both were alumni, so I wanted to carry on the tradition.

When I arrived at this university I decided that I wanted to be involved with more than just school work. During my freshman year I joined the Delta Tau Delta fraternity and also the campus ministry Student Mobilization. Although both of those were time consuming, I worked hard in school; I realized the work paid off when I was nominated for five honor societies including the Mortar Board and Silver Key clubs. During most of college I have worked on becoming the man I want to be when I grow up, I have focused on growing in all aspects of my life, not just on my academics. Since I still don't have any solid plans of what I want to do with my career, I am choosing to attend graduate school to find an emphasis for both my career and life. I want to once again thank you for your support, because without this help, my education would not be possible.

Sincerely,
Alex Hedgepath

Precious Metal Clay (PMC)

By: Jim Baer, TGMS Member

This is an introductory talk describing an easy option for making pure silver or even sterling silver jewelry. This article will focus on the making of pure silver jewelry. PMC is clay, but it is called that only because it behaves like clay. There is no ceramic clay in it. It is made up of fine pure silver powder, an organic binder, and water.

It can be purchased from 2 makers and their products go by the names of "PMC" or "Art Clay".

To make jewelry with it, you take a lump and form it into a final shape, let it dry thus losing the water, and finally heat it in a kiln or use a torch to burn off the organic binder. The silver particles sinter (when small metallic particles bind to each other) forming a solid pure silver piece of jewelry, piece of sculpture, or other type of object. Many metal clay products are available that can be torched fired with a simple butane torch. These torches can be purchased at Harbor Freight for $7 to $15 depending on the sale, or any hardware store.

The material can be rolled flat to make sheets, or rolled into wire. Different pieces can be attached to each other by using a paste of PMC made from the lump form mixed with more water to thin it out. It can also be extruded from devices to make tubes.

You can buy it in a syringe form to easily make different diameter fine extruded wires and it can also be purchased in a paper like sheet that is formulated differently so that it never dries out. This form is used to make origami type shapes which are then kilned to make the final shape solid silver.

The non-paper like products will dry out fast so you need to work quickly and have a well thought out plan before you begin. There are of course many tricks available to extend the working time and even if the clay does dry out, it can be remixed with water to start over again so there is absolutely no waste with this silver. As compared to conventional silversmithing where scrap pieces of sheet or wire must be either sent back to a refiner to get a portion of your money back, or they can be used in casting if the silversmith is set up to do that.

The PMC clay will stick to everything. This can be solved by coating your hands and tools with olive oil.

Once the clay is dried it is a little fragile but can easily be filed, cut, drilled, and carved with just light hand pressure. After the material is fired it is solid silver now, so it can still be filed, cut, drilled, and carved but you will need power tools to do the tasks.

This is a fun material to work with and though it will never replace conventional silversmithing it certainly adds an option for people to make pure silver jewelry with simple home based and inexpensive tools and produce a final product very quickly with minimal training.

As I mentioned at the start of this article there is also available sterling silver PMC, so it is possible to make harder pieces of jewelry since sterling silver is harder than pure silver. This material however absolutely requires a kiln and also the pieces need to be buried in activated charcoal while they fire so it involves more cost than the simple torch firing options.

(Jim can be contacted for more information on using PMC for jewelry making at lbaer72@gmail.com)

Rock Talk Tips

Baking Soda in the Field

Here are some reasons you will be glad you took a box of natural soda along on your field trip.

1. Insect bites, minor burns, poison oak – add water to make a past and apply to affected area.
2. Sunburn, wind burn and prickly heat – add ¼ cup to a basin of water and bathe or sponge on.
3. Acid indigestion – add ¼ teaspoon to ½ glass of water and drink slowly.
4. Tired feet – add three tablespoons to a basin of water and soak.
5. Tooth cleanser and breath freshener – Use as much as needed on moist toothbrush.
6. Hand and fingernail cleaner – Rub dry on moistened hands to remove pine pitch, odors or grease.
7. Fire extinguisher – for grease fire, throw a box full at the base of the fire.
8. Freshening camp coolers and thermos jugs, add 2 teaspoons and partly fill with water, shake and rinse.
9. Deodorant – Sprinkle some inside your boots or hiking shoes.
10. Safe, natural cleaner for camp dishes and pans – add 3 tablespoons to a pan of warm water and soak.
11. Cleaning a dirty, bug spattered windshield, chrome and camper frames – rub damp sponge sprinkled with baking soda.
12. Freshening RV water tanks – flush with a solution of ¼ cup of soda and 1 gallon of water. Rinse with clear water.

(Source: The Agatizer 1/04; Golden Spike News 8/10; Clackamette Gem 5-6/12; News & News 5/12)

ICE SPIKES

A Great Ice Experiment from scientist Dr. Kenneth Libbrecht at the California Institute of Technology.

• When water freezes, it gets bigger! Fill a plastic bottle with water and put it in your freezer. When the water is frozen solid, you will see that the bottle has split open. When the water froze, it expanded, that is, it got larger. This physical feature of ice helps create ice spikes in an ice tray.

What You Need:

--Plastic Ice Tray

--Distilled Water (water from the faucet does not always work very well for this experiment)

--Freezer

What To Do: Preparation for this experiment is very easy. Fill each section in the plastic ice tray with distilled water. Only fill each section about 2/3 full. Don't fill them to the point that they flow into each other.

Now, put the tray in your kitchen freezer. Place the tray so that there is at least two inches of space above the ice tray. When the water is frozen, you should have some ice spikes.

How Do Ice Spikes Form?

Ice spikes are the result of the special feature of ice mentioned above: water expands (gets larger) when it freezes.

This is what happens:

At first, the ice in the ice cube tray freezes at the edges of each section. Then,, it freezes toward the center of the section. This will continue until there is a small hole in the middle of the top of the ice cube. While this is happening, the water is also freezing below the surface of the ice cube. Remember that water expands or gets larger as it freezes. So, as the water freezes at all the sides of the ice cube section in the tray, it pushes the unfrozen water up and out of the little hole on the top. The water that is pushed through the hole freezes in the shape of a small straw. More water is pushed through the straw and it freezes. This continues until all the water has frozen or the straw itself freezes solid. This "straw" is the ice spike!

(Continued on next page)

JUNIOR PAGE

TRIBOLUMINESCENCE:MAKING LIGHT WITH CANDY .....

What you will need.....

A roll of Wintergreen Lifesavers™.
No other flavor will work!
A dark room.
A friend to do the experiment with.

What to do:
Step 1: Face a friend in a dark room or under a blanket.
Step 2: Bit into a wintergreen lifesaver with your mouth open! Be sure to really crunch it into lots of little pieces all at once. When you do it right, your friend will see a very fast, small flash of blue light. Step 3: Brush your teeth really, really well!!!!!!!!!!

What makes it work? Go to -
http://www.waynesthisandthat.com/wintergreen.htm and find out! (Source: Rockytier 2/11)

Flint

Flint, a variety of chalcedony known for making blades. Flint is a variety of chalcedony (cryptocrystalline quartz) known for its ease of forming blades (including spear tips and arrowheads). It is a fine-grained quartz whose crystals are too small to see.
Flint may be black, gray brown, & occasionally dark green or even white. It is found in nodules, often with a white coating. The microscopic crystals of flint have a fibrous habit, which results in a notable behavior when chipped: the pieces are sharp, thin splinters called blades (if large) or flakes (if small).
Repeated chipping (knapping) a piece of flint can result in a carefully shaped arrowhead with an extremely sharp edge. Another use of flint is in a "flintlock", a device where a small piece of flint is struck against a steel plate, releasing sparks to ignite gunpowder or start a fire.
Flint is only one of several chalcedony (cryptocrystalline quartz) varieties. The primary varieties are as follows:
Agate: is a banded variety-sometimes with translucent bands.
Bloodstone: is green with red speckles
Carnelian: is yellow to orange
Chrysoprase: is green
Flint: is generally black with a fibrous microscopic structure
Jasper: is any colorful agate
Onyx: is black, white or alternating black & white
Sard: is yellow to brown
Sardonyx: is banded, alternating sard & usually white onyx

(Source Rockytier 2/12)