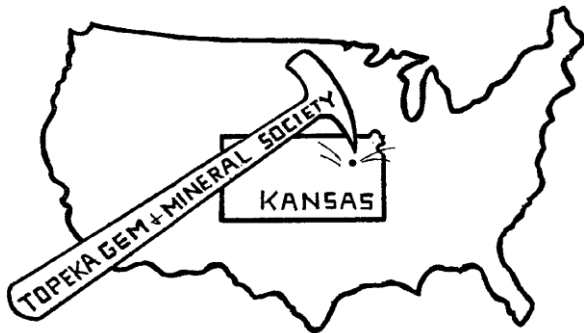


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc  
 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St. Topeka, KS 66611  
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

# THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



[www.topekagemandmineral.org](http://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. 56, No. 11, Nov. 2013

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: 4<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> St, Topeka, KS 66611.

## 2013 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Mike Cote	220-3272	Cab of the Month	Debra Frantz/Fred Zeferjohn	862-8876
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Dave Dillon	272-7804	Field Trip Coord.	Larry Henderson	-----
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Carolyn Brady	233-8305	Publicity	Christy Bien	608-1890
Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Welcome/Registration	Jason Schulz	379-5538
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	M. Cote/D. Dillon	379-5538
Directors	Clyde Burton	478-4778	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	George Reed	836-9277	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	Harold Merrifield	286-3548	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			
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](mailto:rock2plate@aol.com) .  
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

### *From the President – Mike Cote'*

We had a good meeting last month with a lot of people getting their rocks identified. The program this month will be Mark and Kathy Ellis who will be talking about their latest dinosaur dig. **You will not want to miss this meeting** as it is always interesting to see the slide show of what they find.

We will also be voting for a new Director to replace Clyde Burton for a 3 year term. We have two candidates for that position this year and they are: Lucy Hrenchir and Chuck Curtis.

There **will not be a general meeting or a Board Meeting for the month of December**. At January's general meeting the program will be another silent auction. See you all at the next meeting.

Mike and his rock stash

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### TLC REPORT

Mike Cote` is recovering from a cold.  
Dave Dillon's nephew passed away on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Lois Bartley-Spencer reported that she is still having headaches from the accident in October.  
Millie Mowry will be having eye surgery on December 11.



\*\*\*\*\*

The Annual Christmas dinner planned at McFarland's Restaurant, 4133 SW Gage Center Dr. in the lower level. You can choose from the regular menu at your own expense. This will be on December 6, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. **We need at least 25 -30 people to attend**, so bring your spouse, buddy, kids, or best friends. There is an elevator on the south end of the building that can be used instead of the stairs to reach the lower level.



WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Meeting of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society – 10/25/13

Mike Cote' called the meeting to order.

Jason announced 23 members are present for the meeting, door prizes were awarded. Our supply is running low, so if you have something you wish to donate for door prizes, please bring them to the next meeting.

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

Millie Mowry gave the treasurers report. Motions were made to accept the report, motion carried.

Correspondence: Cinda received two show flyers.

Committee reports: Show Chair-Harold reported we had 18 total dealers 2 demo/16 regular. He reported there was one incident of 4-5 people working together, lifting items from some of the dealers. We all need to keep an eye on people at the show. If we see something suspicious, notify security. Show Dealer-Dave reported the new dealers were happy and would like to return again. All understood that attendance was down. Brad Davenport will be doing some refurbishing on the cases to prepare them for next year. Thanks to Chuck for use of his flatbed in transporting from/to storage. We need to get the display cases filled next year. Millie reported attendance was down 202 people, she will get the profit/loss statement made out after she pays the sales taxes. Suggestion was made to make a note on our sign, that it is 'Cash Only' for admission. Another suggestion is we have a sign made "Anyone caught shop lifting, will be prosecuted.' Member observations & suggestions for the show are always welcome. Millie said the caterers rebated \$60.00 to the club! Carolyn thanked everyone who helped to set up the scholarship tables.

AFMS Scholarship-Cinda has nothing to report. Historian-Deborah has nothing new. Fieldtrip & Jr. Rockhound-Larry reported on the field trip (last weekend) and has scheduled for Nov 2 to the KC Show. See his schedule for other activities. Jr. Rockhound classes are starting again with 9 enrolled. They are meeting the 1st Thursday every month. Fossil badges were awarded to Robert & Ian (also Thomas-not here) Schultz. Dave reminded all – if we know any youth 18 and under that might be interested to have them contact Larry. Website, Jason said it is coming along and a new one should be up by the 1st of the year.

New Business: Chuck announced the nominating committee has contacted all current Officers, who agreed to continue. We do need to elect another Director. Cinda nominated Chuck Curtis, Mike nominated Lucy Hrenchir, no other nominations were offered. We will vote on Officers at our next meeting.

Carolyn reported that Rock Identification will be our program tonight and Mark Ellis will be our speaker next month.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Fred Zeferjohn announced the Cab of the Month Winners are:

Member Cab: Dave Dillon – Picture Jasper, Member Jewelry: Dave Dillon – Sterling Fire Agate Ring, Class Jewelry:

Millie Mowry – Beaded Montana Agate. There were a total of 12 entries.

Respectfully submitted by Cinda Kunkler, Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

### Answers to Rockhound I. Q.

1. Schorl is black tourmaline.
2. Misnomer for quartz, either citrine or smoky quartz.
3. Misnomer for gem quality pyrope garnets.
4. "Rhinestone" is the name for the colorless "paste" or glass which in the main are transparent but show some flashes of color.
5. One formed by fusing small pieces to make a larger stone. Coloring oxide is usually added to improve the color.
6. Corundum gems are ruby and sapphire.
7. Gold alloyed with silver, nickel, platinum, or palladium.
8. A variety of asphalt better known as Gilsonite.
9. A stone so dense that no light can pass through it.
10. A term applied to a "paste" or molded glass imitation stone whose facets have been polished on a lap.

Score: 4—5 Good 6—7 Very Good 8—10 Excellent

## NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 7 pm Fossil Special Interest Group-Bakers Dozen	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 TGMS Board Meeting – Millie’s 7 pm	16
17	18	19 7 pm Fossil Special Interest Group-Bakers Dozen	20	21	22 TGMS Regular Meeting 7:30 pm Washburn Stoffer Rm 138	23 Field Trip-TBA McDonald’s 11 <sup>th</sup> & Ks Ave leave 9 am
24	25	26	27	28 THANKSGIVING	29	30

Baker’s Dozen, 4310 SW 21<sup>st</sup> St. Topeka, KS.

## December 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 - 7 pm Fossil Special Interest Group-Bakers Dozen	4	5 - 6:30 PM Jr Rockhound Advisors Mtg. 6:30 pm Jr Rockhound Classes	6 TGMS Christmas Dinner 6:30 pm McFARLANDS	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 <b>NO TGMS BOARD MTG</b>	14
15	16	17 - 7 pm Fossil Special Interest Group-Bakers Dozen	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27 <b>NO GENERAL MTG,</b>	28
29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE	<b>THE DRIFTER WILL NOT BE PRINTED FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER</b>			

An up-to-date Calendar located at: <http://topekagemandmineral.org/calendar.html>

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

Larry Henderson, Field Trip Chairman, LHenderson85@gmail.com

## RHODOGHROSITE

by Crystal Johanson

from *Pebbles* 10/96

(Honorable Mention in 1997 AFMS Adult Article Contest)

The name is from Greek origin, "rhodos" meaning rose, and "Chrosis" meaning color.<sup>6</sup>

Usually, rhodochrosite, a carbonate, occurs in massive granular stalactite, globular, nodular, or botryoidal formations. Typically, the colors vary from pink to red though they may occur toward browns and oranges. The composition,  $MnCO_3$  has a hardness of 3.5 to 4., Rhodochrosite forms in medium-temperature hydrothermal veins associated with copper, silver and lead sulfides along with other manganese minerals. Beautiful specimens are found in the silver-bearing areas of Colorado and on Salt Springs Island or near Duncan on Vancouver Island. Good-sized crystals can be found in Philipsburg<sup>6</sup> and Butte, Montana. Exceptionally red crystals, though small and facetable, come from Leadville, Colorado.<sup>6</sup> In South America, the mineral is often found as stalactites and stalagmites in caves.

Prior to 1776, it was thought variation of iron, but chemist process, discovered that it was useful in hardening iron into

The twin mineral is rhodonite, 54% manganese<sub>3</sub>, is harder 5.5 consequently more reddish than unexcelled for their pure highly prized by the lapidarist and cabochons. Rhodonite often (other minerals), giving it the Perhaps the largest deposit of

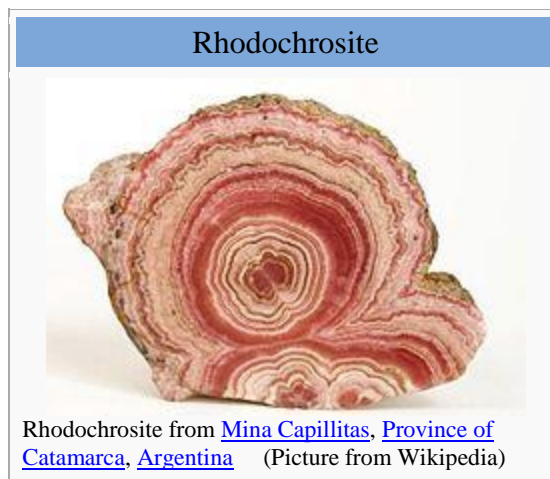
Ekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains of Russia. The Russians have mined this mineral for years, using it in cathedrals and castles for pillars, table tops, jewel caskets, etc.<sup>4</sup> When large masses of the rock are found, it is often streaked with a dendritic black. Other inclusions may be grey or yellow which is spessartine garnet. The mottled grey or green within the rose mass is from chalcedony and idocrase inclusions.;

Rhodonite is often formed in large masses by the metamorphosis of sedimentary manganese. It is fairly prevalent, often jacketed in its black oxide and not always of gem quality-4

The history of the mineral, rhodochrosite started in South America with conquistador, Francisco Pizarro and a few hundred men who conquered the Incan Empire of more than 2 million people. As was customary, the Spaniards extorted millions in gold and silver from the Incas. Among the gem stones and blockish carvings they confiscated, was the beautiful rhodochrosite, "rose of the Incas," that originally came from today's northern Argentina. Those mines are still being worked for rhodochrosite and were once silver mines with an elevation as high as 10,000 feet-6

### REFERENCES:

- (1) Eyewitness Handbook "Rocks and Minerals," pg. 100 - Chris Pellant, Dorling Kindersley Inc., 1992
- (2) Simon Shuster's "Guide to Rocks and Minerals"--pg. 92, 1993
- (3) West Seattle Petroglyphs, Vol. 30, #6, 1993 "The Twin Beauties of the Mineral World" (4) Rocky Trails et al., Nov. 1989 "Rhodonite" (5) "Rhodonite" by Cliff Gustin, Beehive Buzzer 5/89
- (6) The Petrified Digest, April 1991, pg 3--"Gems & Mineralines" by Mae Williams  
(Source: 1997 AFMS Award Winning Articles & Poems page 56.)



that manganese was a magnetic Scheele, through a separation an element, and that it was steel.

$MnSiO_3$  a silicate. It is roughly to 6.5, and often a deeper pink, rhodochrosite. Both are beauty and are consequently for specimens, polished slabs occurs in splotches of white name "Cherry Blossom." <sup>3</sup> rhodonite was found near

## BINGHAMITE

By Ruby Lingelbach

From *The Rockhound Gazette* 11/96

(Honorable Mention in 1997 AFMS Adult Advanced Article Contest)

If you should see a chunk of this stuff lying on the ground you would probably not give it a second glance--unless, of course, you just happened to know that it can produce a marvelous cats-eye or sheen when cut correctly.

The sheen or chatoyancy is caused by light reflections on very minute crystals of iron minerals such as goethite, embedded in quartz. The red color comes from a hematite stain, and yellow comes from limonite. It is different from tigereye in that the reflecting fibers in tigereye are asbestos. The iron crystals in Binghamite are generally straight; in silkstone the fibers are crooked, bent or broken before being embedded in quartz. The rock was named in honor of William I. Bingham of St. Paul who discovered the beauty of the stone in 1936. It has a hardness of 7 with 98% quartz content.

Binghamite is found in the Cuyuna Range of central Minnesota. Other iron-ore areas further north in Minnesota were known and being worked earlier because seams of the ore were visible on the surface. Ore was suspected in this area because as early as 1859 a government surveyor found that his magnetic equipment did not work in Central Minnesota. The minerals were covered by glacial drift. The iron-bearing rock was discovered by Cuyler Adams, a mayor developer of the area, using a "dip needle." He had roamed the hills many times with his dog, "Una." In 1905 when a geologist asked Mrs. Adams to name the Range she combined the first part of Mr. Adams name, "Cuy" with his faithful dog's name. Thus, the Cuyuna Range was named and it became an important mining area.

In the 1920's 18 million tons of ore had been produced with peak production of 28 million tons leaving the area in the 1940's. By 1970 annual production was down to 200,000 tons and the underground mining ended in Minnesota in 1968.

Ore from the Croft Mine was the richest in the Range with an iron content of 55+-%. The Croft Mine's main shaft descended 110 feet and a steel shaft went on down to the 333 foot level. Horizontal tunnels or "drifts" went out from these into the ore. The Croft Mine closed in 1934 and was purchased by the State in 1978.

Today the main industry is tourism. It utilizes to great advantage the beautiful lakes created by the mining industry. Some of the lakes are as deep as 480 feet with pristine, blue water. The Croft Mine is open in the summer only, as a tourist attraction.

The State has built good roads for the tourists, and rockhounds use these as an advantage also. But those traveling the back roads have trouble getting lost. Some property is state owned, some by corporations and some by private individuals so it is recommended that any rock hunter find a guide. The old dump sites where Binghamite is found are brush covered; chunks of Binghamite are usually oxidized and hard to recognize. Because the pieces are found in old dumps there are no veins or pockets of ore. A lot of digging is necessary to find any of this material.

The beauty of this stone does have its price. It leaves the saw oil thick and red. The trim saw blade table will get piles of thick red mud that must be periodically removed. The cab blank also needs frequent wiping to keep the lines visible. And if you want to keep your Genie decent, it must be thoroughly cleaned after the grinding--including inside the hood. The sheen is very directional so great care must be used in the slabbing as well as placement of the cab.

### References

Program script by Gary Witcher, Coteau Des Plaines Gem & Mineral Society, Watertown, S.D., in the RMFMS Program Library.; *Gemstones of North America, Vol 1.* John Sinkankas, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., N.Y., 1959.; "Binghamite and Silkstone" by John J. Kammerer, *Lapidary journal*, 5/89.

(Source: 1997 AFMS Award Winning Articles & Poems page 82)

## A QUIZ – A Rockhound I. Q.

1. What mineral would one be speaking of if he mentioned Schorl?
2. What is “Scotch Topaz”?
3. What is an “Arizona Ruby”?
4. What is “Rhinestone”?
5. What is a reconstructed stone?
6. If one speaks of a corundum gem, what well know gem stone might he be referring to?
7. What is White Gold?
8. What is Uintahite?
9. What is an opaque stone?
10. When one speaks of different cuts in faceting and refers to “tin cut”, what is he speaking of?

(Source: repeat from The Drifter, Vol 34 #2 April 1991) Answers on page 3.

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## JASPER

by Martin Koning, RMFMS Lapidary Tech. Chmn.

One member of the quartz family of minerals that has not received its full due is jasper.

There are several reasons for this. To begin, agate, petrified wood, and some other cab materials have, until recently, been plentiful and reasonably priced. Sources for these materials are rapidly drying up.

Then there is the problem of putting a high gloss finish on some of them. Jaspers contain varying amounts of iron oxide and other minerals. They may "bleed" when rough ground on a carborundum wheel. This means that there is enough iron to discolor the water used for coolant. Some jaspers are badly fractured, and others may be pitted, or contain soft spots.

One must always thoroughly remove all oil from the slab after sawing. This can be done by washing in a detergent, or immersing in fuller's earth - sometimes sold as cat litter. The slab is then examined under magnification. An Opti-Visor will do. All fractures, pits, crystal pockets, and other imperfections marked with a pencil or felt tipped pen. The clean areas can then be marked for cabs.

It may take longer to sand the scratches out of jasper than it would a good grade of agate, but the scratches will eventually come out.

Although tin and cerium oxides will do a good job on agate, they may only put an "orange peel" surface on jasper. The best methods for polishing jasper are:

1. chrome oxide on leather
2. powdered red rouge on muslin

Because of the brilliant color, and striking patterns of jasper, this material may make some of the most handsome cabochons of any member of the quartz family.

(Source: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS 3/87; reprinted from the Glacial Drifter April 1988)

## JUNIOR ROCKHOUND PAGE

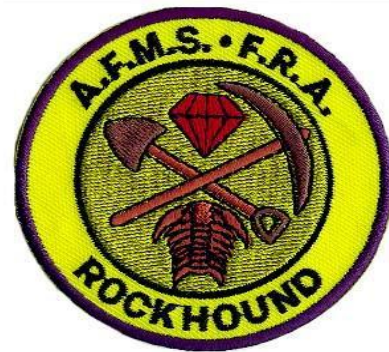
The December 5<sup>th</sup> Junior Rockhound classes will be Fossils, by Larry Henderson, and Rocking on the Computer, by Jason Schulz. The classes are held at the Town & Country Christian Church, 4925 SW 29th Street. We will start at 6:30 p.m.



Mike Cote, Ian S. and Robert S.



Brad Davenport, Patrick S. Receiving a completion certificate.



The Rockhounds had classes in Miniatures and Communications this month taught by Brad Davenport and Jason Schulz. Next month's meeting will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, at Town & Country Christian Church 29<sup>th</sup> & Fairlawn. The classes scheduled for December, are Fossils being taught by Larry Henderson and Rocking on the Computer being taught by Jason Schulz.

Rockhounds welcomed a new Instructor, Barbara Smith.

Patrick Sandquist, has earned his Rocks and Minerals Badge. Ian Schulz has earned his Showmanship Badge.

Shirley Schulz, Secretary

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