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. 08, Aug. 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
1st Vice Pres.	Dave Dillon	272-7804	Field Trip Coord.	Larry Henderson	----------
2nd 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).

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.

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

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CLUB VESTS/BADGES

These are the new vests for the club members. Pictured above are Mike Cote`, Larry Henderson, Chuck Curtis, Cinda Kunkler, Millie Mowry and Dave Dillon.

Any one that is interested in ordering the blue club vests at a reasonable cost contact Millie at rock2plate@aol.com or 267-2849. We need 7 or more orders to get the better price of $14.31 plus Shipping.

They are high quality twill fabric, 65% Polyester/35% cotton with wrinkle resistant and soil releasing finish and 2 pockets.

Small	30-32
Medium	34-36
Large	38-40
XL	42-44
2XL	46-48 add $3
3XL	50-52 add $5

For club name badges they run less than $9 if you want one contact me also.

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SEW DAY – Success

WOW! What a fast pace morning we had. Chuck Curtis, Dave Dillon, Francis Stockton, Donna Stockton, Janet Degenhardt, Cinda Kunkler, Candace Felch, Ken and Sarah Stalder and myself put the "peddle to the metal" and ended up with 357 grab bags ready to stuff for the show in 3 hours.

Great work people---Thank you.

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The Last Club Picnic will be on AUGUST 22

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. We will be stuffing the grab bags at this picnic.

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

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Words From the President…..

August is here already, and time to really get serious about our show that is coming up in October. We will need a lot of help with the set up and take down for the show as well as workers for the booths on Saturday and Sunday. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next picnic so come and help us fill all the grab bags.

The September meeting program is the Silent Auction at Stoffer Science Hall, so everyone still has time to clean out their unwanted rock stash.

Mike and His Rock Stash!

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Words from our V. P.

I have nothing new except for everyone to come to classes at Mike's! A lot going on there. Fun for everyone.

Dave

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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.

Aug 23, 2014 TBA at the picnic. Meet at McDonalds, meet at McDonalds, 11th and Kansas, leave at 9:00 a.m.

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

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Additional Show Dates:

August, 2014

14-17—LAKE GEORGE, COLORADO: Retail show; Lake George Gem & Mineral Club; field between the Post Office and General Store; 37400 US Hwy. 24; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; dealers, local amazonite, smoky quartz, fluorite and topaz, minerals, gems, fossils; contact Dan Alfrey, PO Box 171, Lake George, CO 80827, (719) 440-6234; e-mail: AlfreyDan@aol.com; Web site: LGGMClub.org

15-18—WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO: Annual show; Rock Gypsies; Woodland Park Saddle Club; 19250 E. US Hwy. 24; Thu. 9-5, Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; more than 40 dealers, rocks, minerals, fossils, crystals, gems, petrified wood, cabs, rough, custom jewelry; contact Kim Packham, 87 Plum Creek Rd., Divide, CO 80814, (719) 360-9665; e-mail: runninboar@hotmail.com; Web site: www.woodlandparkrockshow.com

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

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Field Trip to Manhattan Kansas

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TOPEKA JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS

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

Topeka Junior Rockhounds will host their annual Roundup on September 20th, from 8:30 a.m. till 11 a.m. at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St., Topeka, KS.

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.

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PETOSKEY STONES

Petoskey Stones are fossilized colony corals (Hexagonaria percarinata). Their origin is traced back to Devonian seas that covered Michigan's Lower Peninsula about 350 million years ago. The soft, living tissue of corals is called the polyp. A limey substance is secreted by the polyp, hardening into corallite -- a skeletal base which supports the polyp and keeps it from being buried alive by bottom debris.

Petoskey stones found in Michigan consist of massive corallas of varying sizes. The limey skeletons were replaced by calcite or silica in a cell-by-cell process called petrifaction. When glaciers scraped the bedrock surface, fragments of this rock were carried and deposited elsewhere, primarily in the north half of the Lower Peninsula. In 1965, the Michigan legislature became the first in the nation to select a fossil as it state stone. Petoskey stones may be found on beaches, road cuts, ditches, gravel pits and sand blows all over the state. Similar fossils of the Hexagonaria genus occur in many parts of the world, but the "percarinata" is limited to the Traverse Group

John Ratcliffe, Ratcliff@mail.ocis.net, Kamloops, BC

(Source: From SCFMS Newsletter 01/14, **via Pickin's & Diggin SCFMS ,Stoney Statements 1/2014)**

Father, Son Kickstarting Mineralogy

We're trying again on Kickstarter to raise awareness for mineralogy and mineral collecting! Please note, we're not selling anything. But we do need your help, chatter and support to get this project rolling! We're creating free downloadable educational content for kids and educators and we're trying to get a more formative television show going about mineral collecting! Please, if you value mineral collecting, you won't have to put in much effort at all to help out a bunch! It's as easy as forwarding a link, reviewing the project, "Liking" us on Facebook and "Re-Tweeting" our content on Twitter. Simple!
Kickstarter.com is a crowd funding website, where projects are submitted and approved by the staff to get a much needed funding boost from people all over the world. Well our project "Minerals or Bust!" was approved and we launched it on the Fourth of July! Now we need your support! We have specific goals, aims and budgets listed on the project website, so please take a minute to look it over. Two years ago we launched a project that failed to get the funding we needed, but we're not ones to roll over and give up! So we regrouped and created a bigger, better project!

Sadly, Mineral collecting is an interest that is dying out and we want desperately to breathe some new life into this great past time. There are practically no young faces at swap meets, in local clubs and at conferences and if we don't do something fun and entertaining to grab some new interest now we'll lose an entire branch of scientific study. Every year notices circulate about friends and colleagues who made great strides in mineralogy who've passed away. Their collections and research materials disappear, sometimes just into the dumpster! Oh, what a true shame that is!
But that's where we can help! There's no better bunch to put a comical spin on some educational awareness about minerals right now than a goofball father/son team with an extensive mineralogy background. Over the years we've been members of the Nittany Mineralogical Society, Kyana Geological Society, the Georgia Mineral Society, the Coon Creek Non-Meetings in Arkansas, the Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society, Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society, Friends of Mineralogy Midwest, FM Southeast, the Northern California Mineralogical Association and Southern California FM! Our project deadline is August 28th, 2014. Please help us Kickstart an entertaining and informative series about gems, minerals and mineralogy!
Our project on Kickstarter.com: https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/jbarwood/minerals-or-bust-season-one-episode-one
"Like" our Facebook.com page with additional news/info: https://www.facebook.com/Minerals3DHD
Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/MineralsOrBust
Website coming soon: http://www.mineralsorbust.com
All support, be it a "Tweet", a "Like" or just good word of mouth, is greatly appreciated!

Father, Son Kickstarting Mineralogy

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Best Marksman

One of the best marksmen in the FBI was passing through a small town. Everywhere he saw evidence of the most amazing shooting. On trees, on walls, and on fences there were numerous bull's-eyes with the bullet hole in dead center.

The FBI man asked one of the townsmen if he could meet the person responsible for this wonderful marksmanship. The man turned out to be the village idiot.

"This is the best marksmanship I have ever seen," said the FBI man. "How in the world do you do it?"

"Nothing to it," said the idiot. "I shoot first and draw the circles afterward."

Internet Humor!

THE MIRACLE METAL—PLATINUM

Platinum--its reputation has long been overshadowed by gold. But wait, there is so much more to platinum than prominence in the jewelry trade. Alone, or in combination with some of the five allied metals with which it is found in nature, it can work miracles.

Call it the philosophers' stone, that mythical substance that medieval alchemists believed would transmute lead into gold. Platinum is a master of transmutation. What else can be used to create rubies, screen the ozone from high-flying jetliners, make wood stoves burn more efficiently? Without platinum, our food supply would dwindle and our air would darken. It is used in the manufacture of perhaps one out of every five products. Fighter planes, missiles, and spacecraft need platinum. Doctors are using it to cure, and you use platinum every time you drive a car.

Economically as well as industrially, it is a precious metal, and its price has been far from constant--ranging, in the past few years, from under $300 per troy ounce to more than $1000. It is our good fortune that it takes only a tiny bit of platinum to do a giant job.

Though traces of it have been found in ancient Egyptian inlays, Egyptian artisans probably thought it was a form of silver. Pre-Columbian Indians forged jewelry from platinum alloys, but it was the Spanish who reported its discovery in the 16th century. They found it mixed with gold placered out of the rivers of what is now the Choco region of Colombia. Cursing the silvery grains in their gold pans, they painstakingly removed them one by one. Platina--little silver--they called it. Some believed that it was gold not buried long enough to turn yellow and threw it back into the river to ripen.

Word of the strange new metal reached Europe in the mid-16th century. But two more centuries passed before sizable samples of platina reached the Old World, and even those were smuggled in, for the world had learned by then that “worthless" platina could be blended with gold and used to counterfeit bars and coins.

Craftsmen, eager to work with the new platina, learned that adding arsenic made the platina melt at a lower temperature. Marc Janety, a Paris goldsmith during the reign of Louis XVI of France, used that technique.. One of his creations still exists, on display at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is a sugar bowl adorned with intricately worked scenes in low relief. Janety had risked his life to make that bowl, for the melting process filled his workshop with poisonous clouds of vaporized arsenic.

Only in the 19th century did Europeans finally learn that platina was not one metal, but six separate elements. A London chemist, William Wollaston, was the first man to separate platinum from its allied metals. He discovered palladium in 1802 and rhodium in 1804, and his partner, Smithson Tennant, found iridium and osmium. In 1844 Karl Klaus, a Russian chemistry professor, extracted the final element of the platinum group, ruthenium.

Worldwide, daily production of the platinum family is measured in ounces, and of that tiny amount, platinum and palladium dominate; the others appear in much smaller quantities. All six have some common characteristics--high melting point and resistance to most acids--but there are subtle differences that are important to modern technicians. For example, adding small percentages of iridium to platinum creates an alloy with a higher melting point, increased electrical resistance, and increased ability to combat erosion: Combining platinum with metals outside its family can be very effective too--platinum plus cobalt, for example, creates an alloy with extraordinarily high magnetic qualities.

Each year, 10,000 tons of silver and 1,000 tons of gold reach free-world markets, but only 70-80 tons each of platinum and palladium. Canada produces 6 percent and Colombia much less. The lion's share comes from South Africa's Transvaal Province and homeland of Bophuthatswana, and from the Soviet Arctic. Of these four producing nations, only South Africa mines the platinum group as a primary product; output of the rest is geared to the demand for other major metals.

As intrinsically valuable as platinum is, it possesses a mysterious property that is even more precious--for platinum promotes chemical reactions through the magic of catalysis. A catalyst directs a chemical conversion to form a new product, perhaps a millionfold faster than the conversion would take place on its own. Platinum does its catalyzing far better than any other metal. what makes this all the more remarkable is the fact that platinum itself is so chemically inactive--inert enough to be used for pacemaker electrodes plugged into the human heart.

Platinum is necessary for the ozone converters used in airplanes. Ozone is just ordinary oxygen with an extra atom attached. This platinum converter removes one atom, creating oxygen. The converter holds onto that extra atom, and when the next ozone molecule comes by, the converter releases the atom, turning the ozone into two regular molecules of oxygen.

When you ride in an automobile, platinum works for you. The catalytic converter in your car's exhaust system is a ceramic honeycomb coated with a platinum catalyst. As noxious gases flow past, it turns them into harmless carbon dioxide and water vapor.

Wood stoves can also benefit from platinum. Normally, between 5 and 3D percent of firewood's energy is wasted as smoke. As it goes upward, it deposits creosote on the chimney's surfaces--a significant fire hazard. Some stoves now offer an option, a catalytic combustor containing platinum that burns that smoke in the firebox. The device adds about $150 to the cost of the stove, but the user gets more heat per load of firewood and can delay the job of cleaning out the chimney.

Platinum has many uses--it can do so much more than gold. Yet it lies, almost unrecognized, beneath the golden shadow. Future uses for the platinum family of metals are still coming to light. As industry becomes more complex and more sophisticated, efforts continue to make metals stronger, and more corrosion resistant. Platinum and its allied metals can help, wherever strength and durability offset extra cost. Surfaces coated, or even sputtered a hundred atoms thick, with a platinum-group metal may be the answer. Who can envision what miracles platinum will be performing by the end of the century?

(Source: Reprint from The Glacial Drifter July/Aug 1988)

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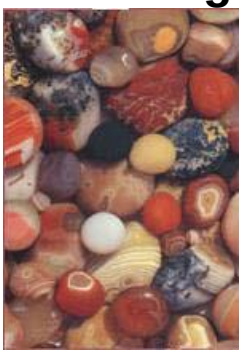
Inside An Agate



Agates with solid inclusions are some of the most beautiful agates in the world. Solid inclusions may be shaped as sagenite, plume, dendrite, or moss. Inclusions occur where iron oxide, manganese oxide, or other oxides are present when the agate is formed. The oxide minerals grow in the agate when it is in a liquid or gelatinous state. The inclusions grow and are supported by this liquid medium.

SAGENITIC AGATE is any agate having acicular or needle like mineral growths. These hair like filaments are often arranged in fans or sunbursts. The inclusions come in a wide array of colors. Sagenite has been found in over 250 different agate deposits worldwide, a little in most agate fields, probably less than five percent of the available agate in most fields.

PLUME AGATE has fluffy inclusions which often appear to be soft and have depth. Sometimes plume agate inclusions resemble feathers, plants, or flowers. Colors may vary as in sagenite. Plume is surprisingly more common than most of us might believe. Many collectors know of Friday Plume, Graveyard Point, Del Norte (Colorado), West Texas, and Mexican Plume.

DENDRITIC AGATE has thin, two-dimensional, treelike growths, usually black or dark brown, as is the case with Montana Agate. Often dendrites form between flat “waterline” bands of agate. Dendrites may also occur in limestone, talc, and sandstone, and in beryl, corundum, and other minerals.

MOSS AGATE has inclusions in the agate random in pattern, often creating the appearance of seaweedor moss. Moss agate comes in many colors and is often green. Moss is the most common type of inclusion in agate.

(Source: Via CMS Tumbler 3/11, Golden Spike E - News, 9/10; THE CLACKAMETTE GEM May 2011)

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Punography---Via Internet

When chemists die, they barium.
Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.
PMS jokes aren't funny; period.
Why were the Indians here first? They had
reservations.
We're going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola® factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.
I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.
Broken pencils are pointless.
I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .
I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
I dropped out of Communism class because of lousy Marx.
All the toilets in New York 's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.
I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
Velcro - what a rip off!
A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.
Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

(Source: The Mountain Gem May 2013)