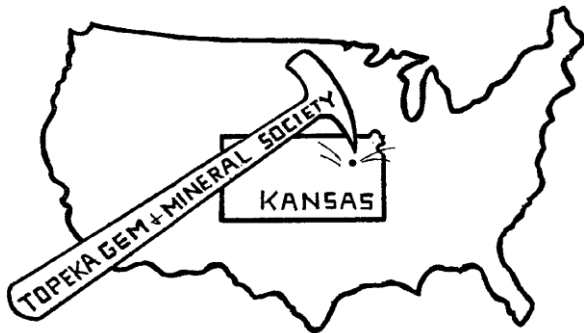


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

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. 12, DEC. 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
	May Springer	231-4321	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

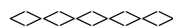
For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above or email at rock2plate@aol.com .
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.



Meeting of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society – 11/20/15

- ❖ Mike Cote' called the meeting to order. Harold Merrifield announced 26 members are present for the meeting, door prizes were awarded.
- ❖ The minutes from the October meeting were printed in The Drifter. Dave Dillon made a motion and Chuck Curtis 2nd to accept as printed.
- ❖ Treasurer's report was given by Millie Mowry a motion was made by Harold to accept the report, Chuck 2nd, motion carried. No bills were presented. She is accepting dues, bring them to the Christmas dinner at McFarland's Dec 7, or mail them to her.
- ❖ Correspondence: none.
- ❖ Committee reports: AFMS – Cinda nothing to report.
- ❖ Publicity – May reported that she & Donna want anyone interested in helping raise sponsorship's for the 2016 show to get in touch with them. Shelly Ramos at TCT told them it was too late to find sponsors for 2016. They have been working with Mike Bell at Visit Topeka, he told them there is some free advertising available.
- ❖ Historian – Deborah has found the disk that reads and scans articles on her computer, and will be working on it now.
- ❖ Show Committee - Harold reported we will be continuing to have the show in 2016 at the Ag Hall and are going to attempt to get sponsors.
- ❖ Field Trip – Larry - they went to Linda Hall Nov 14th for the special exhibit and found it had been pulled. So they went to Gates for BBQ, then to KU to the museum.
- ❖ Junior Rockhounds – Larry reported they currently have 8 in the class right now. The Dec 4th meeting will be on fossils and no advisors meeting that night. There will be a special advisors meeting scheduled later.
- ❖ New Business: Nominating committee – Chuck reported all officers accepted to remain in office. May Springer has been appointed to one of the Director positions. Mike called for nominations from the floor. The nomination of current officers to continue for 2016 was approved.
- ❖ Will Gilliland found an article in the 'Academy of Science' of Kansas Rocks. He will make a copy for our library.
- ❖ With no further business, Chuck moved to adjourn to our program – Identifying Rocks. Hope everyone brought lots to identify!
- ❖ Fred announced the Cab of the Month Winners are: Member Jewelry Mike Cote' Fire Agate Ring, Member Cab Larry Springer Jasper, Class Jewelry Debi Franz Turquoise Sterling Ring.

Respectfully submitted by Cinda Kunkler, Secretary



Words From Mike

Hello members.

I am really happy to see all the members and family at the Annual Christmas Dinner. The members I spoke to said they had a good time. Congratulations to Donna Stockton on member of the year. Hope you all have a great Christmas and Happy New Years .

President Mike and his Rock Stash!



We still need Best Choice UPS Labels!

Word from our V. P.

I hope that everyone has a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year!! Remember we have our silent auction at our January regular meeting. Also bring in new members and new ideas to help our club grow!!! We had a great year and I look forward to an even better year to come! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Dave-



Publicity Chairman

Hello Everyone:

Thank you for allowing me the honor of becoming your 2015 Member of the Year. That honor continues to take my breath away each time I think about it. The beautiful crystal flame-shaped trophy stands in a permanent place of honor in my china cabinet for all to see. Thank You.



In late November, I contacted Michelle Ramos from Topeka Civic Theatre. She handles Sponsors and Donors for the theatre. She says to go forward with trying to get Donors but informed me that we are a year late, already. We will make appointments with those perspective donors and start from within our group. These donors would help us with printing the brochure to go along with our 60th show and other parts of our publicity (billboard, media spots, shirts, etc.). We will have a written agreement with each sponsor that would state what they would get from us, (name or logo on all publicity, name in show brochure, etc.) We need to get in each sponsor's budget. Of course budgets are set a year in advance. So, we will expect to have problems to over-come this year. Once we make our needs known to sponsors, we will have more success. It was suggested to me that we have several levels of help. That needs to be formulated.

A publicity committee, to help implement a publicity plan to then take to the board, will need to meet before the first of the year. I know the Springers, Larry Henderson, Tiffany Dominguez and Jason Schulz expressed willingness to serve on this committee. Dave Dillon would like to sit in and anyone else who would like to, may also sit in and share ideas. We need to meet between Christmas and New Years. I'm thinking Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's United Methodist Church, at N.W. 35th and HYW. 75.

May and Larry Springer and I looked for a new venue for the past couple of months. That was unsuccessful for the upcoming year. Believe us, it was an exhaustive search that took us as far north as Mayetta and south to the Topeka Airport Authority. We will not give up the search for 2017, keeping our options open.

We have a lot on our plate. We still need to come up with a 2016 show theme, decisions on who we might invite to showcase our 60th. I have sent a letter to feel out the possibility of bringing Shirley Strawn of the Strawn-Wagner flawless diamond fame out of Murfreesboro, Ark. Diamond mine fame. I met three of the families from Prospectors TV show and will be speaking with them as possible participants, as well. We might utilize these participants as seminar speakers. We would hope any expense to club to bring these people in would be sponsored by one of our donors/sponsors or several donors/sponsors.

Hope several of you who had great ideas will decide to come to the Dec. 29 meeting and insure your ideas are considered.

Your TGMS Publicist, Donna Stockton 913-645-7677 or donnaannstockton@gmail.com

YOUR 2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE! If you joined the last of September or in October you are paid up for 2016. If you have any question about it, contact me. Millie rock2plate@aol.com

Our Annual Christmas Dinner Party

Good food, and friendship was held by the members of the TGMS Club. There was 35 in attendance at McFarland's Restaurant, where games were played and prizes were given out. Everyone got to take the Elf Shoe home filled with Oreo Cookies.



There was one game that stumped almost everyone, so I will include it on the next page to see if any of the 'readers' of the Drifter can come up with the correct answers.

IS IT REALLY JADE?

Match the correct names or meanings:

Green jasper is _____

A dark green jasper _____

Malachite is _____

A microcline _____

Chrysophase is _____

Adverturine is _____

A green-dyed marble or calcite _____

A mixture of idocrase & grossular _____

_____ jades are all soapstone.

A massive variety of green grossular garnet _____

A bowenite, a hard variety of serpentine, _____

(Hint, all were listed in the November 2002 Drifter)

Match these names of Jade to the correct meanings above:

Oregon Jade

Mexican Jade

Flukien, Manchurian, Honan

American Jade

Silver Peak Jade

Korean Jade

Transvaal Jade

Amazon Jade

Jasper Jade

Colorado Jade

Australian Jade

(from Carmel Valley Prospector, Via Breccia 5/98, Via Golden Spike News 3/01)

The answers will appear in the January 2016 issue of the TGMS Drifter, but if you cannot wait, contact me and I will give you the answers. The most the members got correct was 3. Millie rock2plate@aol.com

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>

- ❖ **December 21, 2015** Field Trip to Turkey Point Fossil Site. Meet at McDonald's 11th and Kansas. Leave at 9:00 AM. Eat at Pueblo Mexican Restaurant at Osage City at 11:30 AM. Junior Rockhounds, contact Larry for worksheets.
- ❖ **January 23, 2016** TBA

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

- **Additional Show Dates:**

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

Fossil Special Interest Group

The first and third Tuesday night 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.

*Dec. 1

Junior Rockhounds can get help on their collections.



KU Natural History Museum



Fossil Special Interest Group



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 6:30 pm 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.

-We have a Junior Rockhounds Activities Center that is open at the general meetings. It begins at 7:00 pm and run through the meeting preceding the program. Door prizes and patch/badge presentations will be given out at that time. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to all events.

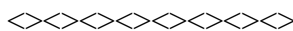
Junior Rockhound - New Class Schedule 2016

January 7 Dinosaurs-Larry Henderson
February 4 Rocking on the Computer-Jason Schulz



Junior Rockhound Activity Center

General Meeting
Stoffer Science Hall
Washburn University
7:00 PM January 22, 2016



Mineral Changes Dues to Weathering

Feldspar changes to clay
Olivine and hornblends changes to serpentine or chlorite rocks
Impure limestone may dissolve and leave clay
Pyrite changes to limonite and hematite
Copper-sulfide minerals change to malachite, azurite, cuprite or metallic copper or may dissolve entirely.
 Some copper minerals become partly limonite.
Silver minerals change to horn silver (cerargyrite) or dissolve
Rhodochrosite and rhodonite change to psilomelane or pyrolusite (manganese) minerals.
Calcite dissolves.
Gold may dissolve if manganese is in the rock.
Quarta, fluorite, apatite, barite & tourmaline are not likely to change.

(Source: Cycad, Flint Chips, Osage Hills Gems 11.92, Independence Gem & Mineral Dec 2015)

HOW TO CUT AND POLISH FIRE AGATE

by Nova Wells, cc

Fire agate has the same properties common to all agates, plus some special conditions. It is a chalcedony and is formed in botryoidal layers, which means 'like a bunch of grapes.' The 'fire' comes from very thin layers of iron oxide that coat occasional layers of clear chalcedony, with other clear and brown layers in between. Fire agate is predominately brown in color but often has masses of white attached. Good fire agate will have more than one layer of 'fire,' or iron oxide which produces



iridescence in the same way a skim of oil produces color on water. There are places in both New Mexico and Arizona where the stone may be collected and it is also mined in Mexico.

Begin by using the saw to remove any amount of plain white stone that is attached. Be careful to check each saw cut to be sure you didn't cut into some color (fire). If there is no layer of fire visible begin to grind carefully over the surface of the stone until you can spot one or more layers of iridescence. Fire agate sold by dealers will often have a window' cut to show where the color is. Because it is botryoidal most fire agate must be worked by hand because it involves concave as well as convex surfaces. There are two types of tools you can use with equal success to work fire agate. You can use a Dremel or Flex Shaft with a series of diamond tools or you can use short pieces of wood dowel in several sizes that you shape yourself. The dowel can be put in an electric drill and used with commercial diamond powder in grades from grind to polish.

The trick is to locate the layer of iridescence covering as much surface as possible and then remove all but the thinnest layer of clear chalcedony that covers it. I begin with small round or pointed diamond bits in the Dremel to remove unwanted stone. **USE LOTS OF WATER WHEN GRINDING.** Because you are working close to your eyes (and nose) and producing powdered stone, it would be very easy to inhale the dust causing permanent damage to your lungs if you allow any dryness to occur. Never mind the possibility of cracking the stone. Stones are replaceable—your lungs aren't. The next series of steps is to use diamond imbedded Dremel tools graded from 180 grit to 15,000 grit. There are two types of tools you can use with equal success to work fire agate. Mine are 'Nova Points' but there are probably other brands that are just as good.

Getting the stone smooth and showing the iridescence in a finished state may take several hours. Final polish can be done with wheel and tin oxide. The rewards are worth the patience required.

(from April 2014 The Hounds Tale, from December 2015 The Stone Chipper; via Stoney Stmts Dec 2015)

Fire agate, a variety of chalcedony, is a semiprecious natural gemstone found only in certain areas of northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. Approximately 24-36 million years ago these areas were subjected to massive volcanic activity during the Tertiary Period. The fire agates were formed during this period of volcanism when hot water, saturated with silica and iron oxide, repeatedly filled cracks and bubbles in the surrounding rock.



Fire agates have beautiful iridescent rainbow colors, similar to opal, with a measurement of hardness on the Mohs scale of between 6.5 and 7 which prevent issues of fading, cracking and scratching. The vibrant iridescent rainbow colors found within fire agates, created by the Schiller effect as found in mother-of-pearl, is caused by the alternating silica and iron oxide layers which diffract and allow light to pass and form interference of colors known as fire. There is no actual object inside the stone, this special effect arises from light interference within the microstructure layering of the gem.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_agate; via Stoney Stmts Dec 2015)

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