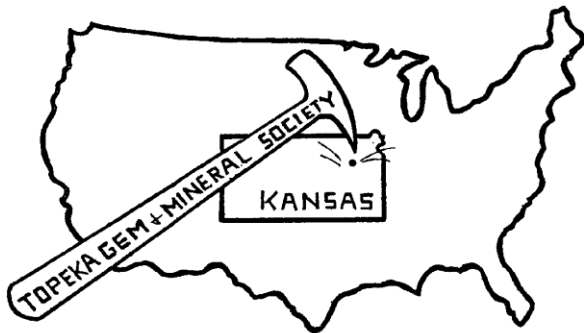


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



www.TopekaGMS or
 Facebook: Topeka Gem and Mineral Society Field Trips

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. 61, No. 4, Apr., 2018

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.**

www.TopekaGMS.org

2018 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.	Will Gilliland	286-0905
2 nd Vice Pres.	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Publicity	TGMS Board	
Secretary	Colleen Lightwine	350-2958	Welcome/Registration	Russ & Rhonda Miller	272-6408
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	M. Cote/D. Dillon	220-3272
Directors	Chuck Curtis	286-1790	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	Brad Davenport	379-8700	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	Will Gilliland	286-0905	Show Chairman	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Historian	Jessica Reedy	230-3445	Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Federation Rep	Harold Merrifield	633-9745	Show Secretary	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Corporation Agent	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Jr. Rockhound Leader	Jason Schulz	640-6617
Librarian	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Show Case Coordinator	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Web Master	Jason Schulz	640-6617			

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.

Words from Our Top Rock!



IT IS NOT HERE YET!.....the date the Barn will open for lessons will be soon.

Dave had surgery and I will be going to Wichita on the 24th to see about my knee surgery. SO, please be patient!

- ✓ As an up-coming reminder, May will be the last month for our general meeting at Washburn University until September. For the months of June, July and August there will be pot luck picnics at Millie's house. More details will be in next month's Drifter.

Mike C.

Changes to the 2018 TGMS Directory

Tiffany Dominguez.....chg name/address to: Patterson, 3413 SE Peck Ct.
Topeka, KS 66605

Francis Varella.....chg phone to: 785-617-0241

Jim & Laura Baer....chg email to: l.bear520@gmail.com

Edith Mattews.....chg of name/address to: Edith Gaines, P O Box 5939,
Topeka, KS 66605

Gilberto Martinez....chg email to: gilmb8507@gmail.com

There is room at the bottom of page 3 for these corrections—if you have a correction, please notify me so I can make the changes. Millie



TGMS Field Trip

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society will have a field trip Saturday, May 5, 2018. We will meet at 11:00 A.M. at the Casey's Store on US Highway 77 in Blue Rapids, Kansas.

The planned stops include the Ice Age Monument in Blue Rapids (the only round town square in Kansas), a glacial gravel quarry (collect rocks and minerals brought by the glaciers from as far north as central Canada) and at a kimberlite plug (native Kansas igneous rock and the many minerals it contains). Please note that diamonds are found in kimberlite in other parts of the world, but not in Kansas. If there is interest in fossil collecting, we can see about a stop or two on the way back to Topeka.

Blue Rapids is located at the upper end of Tuttle Creek Lake. If you go north on US 75 to US 36 and west to US 77 then down to Blue Rapids, it is about 130 miles. If you go to Manhattan on I 70 and north to US 77 and on to Blue Rapids, it is about 115 miles. Please allow enough time for travel. Be sure to bring water and food, we may not be near towns when you want them. The stop at the igneous plug is in a pasture, so bring a good quality bug spray. In past years we have encountered ticks there. My cell phone number is 785-207-0161 if it is necessary to reach me on the trip, however, cell phone coverage is very poor in the area along the west side of Tuttle Creek Lake.

(It might be advisable to let Will know a head of time that you plan on going on this field trip so that he knows how many to expect. You can contact him at gillilandp@aol.com or 785-286-0905)

Will Gilliland, Field Trip Coordinator

Topeka Gem and Mineral Society General Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2018

18 members and 1 guest

Mike Cote' called the meeting to order.

Secretary: Colleen Lightwine reported that the February minutes had gone out in The Drifter. Cinda moved to approved and Chuck 2nd.

Treasury: Millie Mowry reported the balance in checking, with no outstanding bills to be paid. Dave moved to approve and Brad 2nd.

Publicity:

Historian:

Show: Dave Dillon said that we have 13 dealers at this time. We are getting some bigger dealers.

Mike set out the green sign-up sheets. They are Set up & Take Down, Pick up & Return items to Storage, Door Ticket Table, Scholarship Table, and Silent Auction – Hospitality Table.

Jason is waiting for tax season to close, to get with a local group to see what they propose for advertising.

Field trips: Will Gilliland is still working on a field trip to Blue Rapids, KS. He is checking on including a gypsum mine. May 5th is a possible date for this trip.

Webmaster: Jason Schulz reported that TGMS had 407 likes and the Rockhounds had 106.

Junior Rockhounds: Jason Schulz reported that 7 Jr. Rockhounds attended the last program. The next class will be held at the library on April 5, 2018. Sign-in is at 6:00 with the class starting at 6:30.

Correspondence:

New Business: Shirley Schulz reported that the fair board had approve to have open lapidary geology classes at the 2018 fair, that will be held July 26 – 29.

Will Gilliland reported on the newspaper article that stated the following will be the Kansas rock: Green Horn Limestone; mineral: Galena; and gem stone: the amber Jelenite .

Dave Dillon told of a finding of dinosaur bones at a sink hole in Russia.

Old Business: Nothing new on the AFMS scholarship.

Mike moved to adjourn to Cinda's program Treasures of the Earth - Gems. Dave moved to approve.

This month's winner is Millie Mowry (Washington Serpentine pendent) for the Member Jewelry out of 2 entries. Dave Dillon (Montana Agate) won the Member Cab out of 1 entry.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Lightwine.

Old Stones and New Technology

By: Jason Schulz, TGMS Member

For some of us old fossils, the Internet can be a fascinating place. It's amazing what you can find if you look hard enough, and there's some hidden gems out there too!

Here's some diamonds in the rough if you're looking for information or inspiration:

YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com>) – Sure, everyone who's been on the Internet within the last decade has seen a YouTube video. Not only can you see videos from the site, but they're often embedded in other web sites as well. YouTube provides a plethora of homemade videos covering lapidary, jewelry making, geology, and other things. The quality of videos can vary wildly, but overall the search is worth it.

The International Gem Society (<http://www.gemsociety.org>) – A marvelous collection of articles and information for both beginners and experienced practioners.

Nova (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/>) – A long-running science series on PBS, there's a large number of shows on geology, gems, and minerals buried within its many pages. A good, dedicated search can reveal a trove of information about our world and the treasures within!

This is but a small sampling of what's out there. Of course, the TGMS web site (<http://www.topekagms.org>) and our FaceBook pages are good ones as well!

Happy hunting!

Event Calendar

Apr. 2018

1S	
2M	
3T	
4W	
5T	
6F	Board Meeting 7 p.m. @ Millie's
7S	
8S	
9M	
10T	
11W	
12T	Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3,
13F	
14S	
15S	
16M	
17T	
18W	
19T	Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3,
20F	Wichita Gem & Mineral Show, Cessna Activity Cntr. 2744 Geo. Washington Blvd. www.wgmsks.org 20 th -22 nd 9am -6pm
21S	Wichita Show 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
22S	Wichita Show 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
23M	
24T	
25W	
26T	Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3,
27F	General Mtg. 7:30 pm Stauffer rm 138 Hall Washburn-
28S	
29S	
30M	

May. 2018

1T	
2W	
3T	Jr Rkhd's @ TSCPL rm 101A Marvin Auditorium Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3 pm
4F	
5S	FIELD TRIP: See above- -Blue Rapids, KS
6S	
7M	
8T	
9W	
10T	Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3 p.m.
11F	Board Meeting 7 p.m. @ Millie's
12S	
13S	MOTHER'S DAY
14M	
15T	
16W	
17T	Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3 p.m.
18F	
19S	
20S	
21M	
22T	
23W	
24T	Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3 p.m.
25F	General Mtg. 7:30 pm Stauffer rm 138 Hall Washburn-Program- by Robert Schulz
26S	
27S	
28M	Memorial Day
29T	
30W	
31T	Wire Wrap Class @ Millie 1-3 p.m.

Check out the calendar on our web site
www.TopekaGMS.org

Any questions ask Millie at rock2plate@aol.com

If you are interested in Wire Wrap Classes, contact Millie, 267-2849 or rock2plate@aol.com

If you are interested in Wire Wrap Classes, contact Millie, 267-2849 or rock2plate@aol.com

Lessons at the Barn: For Directions contact Mike Cote` or David Dillon or Millie Mowry.



TOPEKA JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS
<https://www.facebook.com/TopekaGMSJuniorRockhounds>
To register for the Junior Rockhounds or any of the classes, email:
Jason Schulz at: Fleetcommander@att.net

JR ROCKHOUND Classes & Reminders

Here are reminders of the next 3 months of classes: Topeka Shawnee CO Public Library sign in starting at 6:00pm and classes starting at 6:30pm. 1st Thursday of each month... **PLEASE watch for a new email for the new updated classrooms, classes, and instructors schedule starting with December 2017 to November 2018.**

- May 3rd Thursday, Marvin Auditorium, rm. 101A TBD
- June 7th Barbara Smith, Collecting, rm. 101A Marvin Auditorium

Some of the Rockhounds were given notebooks for the Communication Patch. If you have written your story for the article in the Drifter, bring it in so that it can be counted, then published in the next Drifter. For those who do not have the note books, see Millie and she will give you one.

From the Coordinator

Our Junior Rockhounds class this month covered “Rocking on the Computer,” an introduction to safe surfing practices and some resources available on the Internet about gems, minerals, and fossils. Seven Rockhounds attended the class and gained some valuable insight about using the Internet for research and information.

At the end of the session, Dave Dillon, Mike Cote, and Millie Mowry gave an introduction for Lapidary Arts, the next class. The class will be on Thursday, May 3rd with the location to be confirmed. More information will come out as details are finalized.

Jason Schulz

A Colorado Field Trip

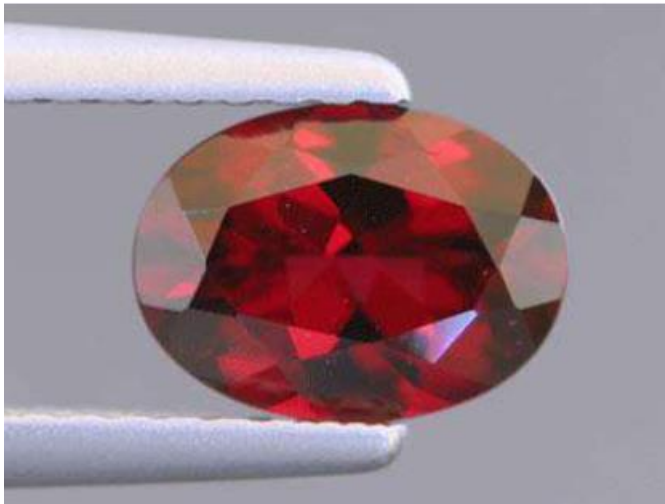
By Paislee Baxa, Topeka Junior Rockhound

Hi, my name is Paislee Baxa and I'm going to tell you about my trip to Colorado. We went to a town called Blackhawk where my family and I went to a river and learned to gold pan. We went to a working mine where they search for gold. We also spent time looking for our own treasure. I found pyrite, granite, and a snake!!! My brother lost his shovel. Most of what I collected I used to make my display for the gem and mineral show. This was my first time showing all my collection. I love rocks and really enjoyed being a part of the show.

Visitors are always WELCOME at our meetings!

Ant Hill Garnets

Tiny ants mine some of the best garnets. Some gemstones derive a large portion of their appeal because they are found in an unexpected locality or have an unusual origin. "Ant hill garnets" are one of the more interesting of these "novelty gems."



"They are called "ant hill garnets" because they are found on & around the margins of ant hills. The ants encounter the garnets while excavating their underground passages. The ants haul the stones to the surface and discard them. The rain washes the garnets clean & moves them down the flank of the ant hill, where they can accumulate in large numbers and makes them easy for people to collect. Their brilliant luster & red color contrasts strongly with the surrounding soil.

Arizona Ant Hills: A few areas in Arizona are well known for ant hill garnets. These are beautiful bright red chromium pyrope garnets with high color saturation. The Native Americans discovered them long ago and marveled at their color and beauty. They regarded them as special and sometimes sewed them into ceremonial rattles or gave them as tokens of appreciation.

Today, Native Americans and rockhounds collect the garnets and sell them in parcels to lapidaries who cut them into cabochons and faceted stones. The finished stones and attractive pieces of rough are sold to gem collectors and mounted into jewelry. The novelty origin of the stones adds to their appeal and can elevate their price to a higher level than what is paid for similar-quality stones from other localities. The typical ant hill garnet is a tiny stone, less than a caret. Photo is of ant hill garnet from Garnet Ridge, AZ. 1.02 carats.

Via: Geology.com & photo credit by Bradley J. Payne of thegemtrader.com// August 2016 Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Club News, via Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society 4/2018



Submitted by Maxine Sheel
From the Weekly Register-Call,
Black Hawk, CO
Feb. 22, 2018, p. 17
Via: Tip & Chips 4/18

My favorite animal

Some people just can't handle the truth!

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "fried chicken."

She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right because everyone else in class laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth, so I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal.

I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA, because they love animals very much.

I do too – especially chicken, pork, and beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.

I told him what happened, and he laughed too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class, my teacher asked me what my favorite "live" animal was.

I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office.

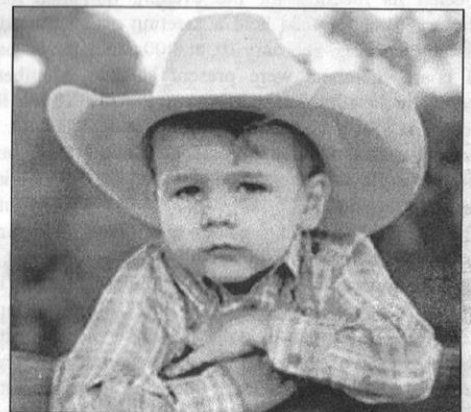
He laughed and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous military person I admired most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders."

Guess where I am now...



VIRGIN VALLEY OPALS

By EVELYN CATALDO

Hidden in the high desert region of the northwest corner of Nevada, lies the famous Virgin Valley precious opal mines. The area is famous for black opal, known to occur in only two places on Earth: Virgin Valley, Nevada and New South Wales, Australia.

It is believed that this area was once a large lake surrounded by a forest filled with a variety of tree species. Over time the forest was devastated by a series of volcanic eruptions. Twigs, limbs and rotting wood collected in the coves of the lake. The forests, the lake and the driftwood were buried under layer after layer of ash. The buried wood decayed and left cavities. Over millions of years, heat and pressure filled the cavities with silica that percolated through the ash; gradually hardening into opal. Under the right conditions, precious opal was formed. Over time, the entire area has been uplifted and eroded, exposing the opal deposits. It is said that it took Mother Nature twenty million years to make a Virgin Valley black opal.

The Virgin Valley area has been inhabited by man for more than 10,000 years. In the southwestern portion of the valley lies the "Last Supper Cave". Its bones and artifacts have been carbon dated to 10,000 to 12,000 years.

There is evidence that the Chinese sent an expedition to mine the precious black opal approximately 4,500 years ago. During the late 1800^s and early 1900^s a few specimens were collected by cowboys and shepherders.

These specimens were reported to the press and soon prospectors found their way to Virgin Valley. Opals were first mined commercially in the area in 1905 with the discovery of the Bonanza Mine. Other early mining operations included the Rainbow Mine. Both are still in production today.

Most of the opal found in Virgin Valley is in the form of replaced wood and limb casts. Opalized bones of vertebrate animals have also been found, as well as opalized bark, roots, pine cones and seeds. The opals are found in layers of clay. The precious opal bearing layers may be as much as 10-30 feet below the surface and range in thickness from 2-12 feet. Common opal is abundant throughout the layers of clay and ash, but only specific conditions produced the precious opal.

Anything that resembles petrified wood should be carefully examined and kept. Look for specimens that are glassy looking. The background color does not matter. **Some of the most beautiful opal specimens do not show color immediately.** Collect everything glassy looking, black, clear, milky, brown, etc. Sometimes, good pieces of opal are covered with a white, chalky coating. A small percentage of the opal found in Virgin Valley is valued at more per carat than diamonds. Keep your eyes open for other fossils and artifacts.

Virgin Valley is high desert. Expect warm days and cool nights. Be prepared with a variety of clothing, plenty of liquids, sun screen, hat, and chap stick. Food, fuel and lodging can be found at Denio, Nevada (35 miles away).

Dry camping is available at the CCC campground with is about five miles from the mines. The campground is free. There are no hookups but outhouses are available, a shower room and swimming in the hot spring. There are fire pits for the cool evenings, but you need to bring your own wood.

Other items you will find useful are a small pick, small garden rake, small shovel, spray bottle with water, a bucket for sitting on, gloves and some zip lock bags to store your specimens.

The opal mines at Virgin Valley are fee dig areas. Some mines allow digging through the tailings, some allow digging in the clay wall and Rainbow Ridge offers loads of virgin material. Prices range from \$50 per day for going through tailings to \$400 for a load of virgin material.



REF: THE GEODE, LAKESIDE G&MS, 04/07

(Photo compliments of Wikipedia) (Via Golden Spike News 3/18, via, Clackamette Gem 4/18)



Amazonite and smoky quartz. Photo from Quantum Stones.com

Question 733 of “1001 Questions about Minerals” by Richard M. Pearl, 1959

“How did amazonstone get its name? The green variety of microcline, a kind of feldspar, is known as amazonstone or amazonite, deriving its name from the Amazon River in South America, in spite of the evidence that none of it has ever been found there. This mineral has evidently been mistaken for jade or some other green mineral. The Pikes Peak region of Colorado is by far the world’s most important source of amazonstone. The Colorado material was first made known to the public in 1876 when it was exhibited and sold at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, in such quality and size that mineral dealers from Russia, formerly the leading producer, were put out of business.”

(Richard Pearl would have been properly ecstatic over this specimen!)

Other information about amazonite:

The color comes from trace amounts of lead and water in the crystal structure. (Minerals of Colorado by Eckel, et. al., p. 201)

Amazonite was named in 1847 for a site “near the Amazon River.” (MinDat)

The first record of minerals being collected from the Crystal Peak area dates back to the early 1870s when A.E. Foote - a prominent Philadelphia mineral dealer - sent skilled prospectors, including Thomas Houghton, to the area in an attempt to recover fine crystal specimens. It was Foote, supplied by Houghton in Lake George, who sold the prized amazonite specimens at the Centennial Expo in 1876. (Mark Jacobson, email, 3/26/2018) Realize that this was barely 15 years after settlement of Colorado!

(Source: Tips & Chips 4-18)

We need your **BEST CHOICE UPC Labels** --- Bring them to the monthly meeting,
And give them to Cinda Kunkler

