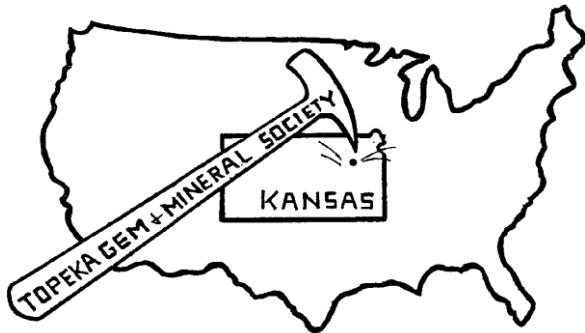


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St. Topeka, KS 66611  
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

# 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. 64, No. 8  
 August 2021



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, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College, Topeka, KS 66604. 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.**

**www.TopekaGMS.org**

## 2021 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Brad Davenport	379-8700	Cab of the Month	Debra Frantz/Fred Zeferjohn	862-8876
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Will Gilliland	286-0905	Field Trip Coord.	Will Gilliland	286-0905
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Publicity	TGMS Board	
Secretary	Stacy Haug	1-857-3350	Welcome/Registration	Harold Merrifield	633-9745
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	M. Cote/D. Dillon	220-3272
Directors	Chuck Curtis	286-1790	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	Francis Stockton	913-645-7677	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	Dave Dillon	272-7804	Show Chairman	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Historian	Open		Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	272-7804
Federation Rep	Chuck Curtis	286-1790	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](mailto:rock2plate@aol.com) .  
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

# Ramblings from your President.

Good day to all.

There are a few Items that I would like to bring to everyone's attention.

First off, a reminder that next Friday will be our last summer picnic/ covered dish dinner. Aug 27<sup>th</sup> at the University United Methodist Church. These have been well attended with great folks and good food. We eat at 6:30 and need you to show up early enough to help set up tables and chairs. And stay late enough to help clean & put things away.

On September 4<sup>th</sup> a Saturday, we need your help for a work day out at my shop. We will be painting signs for our show, cleaning up some lapidary equipment that we don't have room for. These will be taken to the show for sale. There are lots of rocks & minerals that need to be sorted, priced and bagged for the silent auction at our show. There needs to be some general cleaning in the rooms we used for shop space. I'm sure there are other details needing to be addressed.

The Sertoma Great Duck Race is approaching. We receive a generous amount of money for each duck we sell. You need to help promote this activity. Go to this link <https://www.duckrace.com/topeka> and click on Teams and scroll down to Topeka Gem & Mineral Society to make a purchase. It is a simple activity that we benefit handsomely from. Promote, promote, promote.

For our show's theme "Green With Envy", several of us are putting together collections of rocks, minerals and gemstones to fill cases for exhibit. If you would like to participate with some of your own green materials, let us know. We will have plenty of cases and shared space for your goodies.

Most importantly!

We will be needing extra special amounts of help for this year's show. We have some members that have been heavy hitters in the past that will not be able to perform the amounts of work that they have in the past. We need all members to step up and help us fill these voids. Not just an hour here or there. Set up starts bright and early Friday morning This takes most of the day. Then there are ten hours each day of the show. At 5:00 Sunday evening is when the real work begins. We need lots of help knocking everything down, putting everything back in storage containers, taking apart all of the cases we use, collecting signage, stripping tables, loading trucks and trailers and in general, cleaning up the hall we use. If we can get adequate help, the members that are traditionally there can get out of there before 9:00 PM.

On top of your help, we need our youth actively involved. I would love to see a case put together of their collections and projects. It would be great to see some of them helping at the Junior rockhounds tables and the scholarship area.

We have sign up sheets available for you to pick and choose when you will be able to volunteer for a morning or afternoon. They are available Tuesday nights at my place when the shops are open. We will have them with us at next week's picnic and at the shops on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> work day. You can also call or shoot us an email with the times you can help.

I hate having to be the heavy begging for your help but this is your club and you need to help out.

Brad

# TGMS Event Calendar

AUG 2021			SEPT. 2021		
1	S		1	W	
2	M		2	T	Junior Rock Hounds, UUMC 6 p.m.
3	T		3	F	
4	W		4	S	Rock Sorting/Bagging/Painting at Brad's 8 a.m.
5	T		5	S	
6	F		6	M	
7	S		7	T	Brad's Shop OPEN 6 PM Wear Masks, have shots
8	S		8	W	
9	M		9	T	
10	T		10	F	
11	W		11	S	
12	T		12	S	
13	F		13	M	
14	S		14	T	Brad's Shop OPEN 6 PM Wear Masks, have shots
15	S		15	W	
16	M		16	T	
17	T	Brad's Shop OPEN 6 PM Wear Masks, have shots	17	F	
18	W		18	S	
19	T		19	S	
20	F		20	M	
21	S		21	T	Brad's Shop OPEN 6 PM Wear Masks, have shots
22	S		22	W	
23	M		23	T	
24	T	Brad's Shop OPEN 6 PM Wear Masks, have shots	24	F	General Mtg. 6:30 p.m. UUMC
25	W		25	S	
26	T		26	S	
27	F	<b>POT-LUCK PICNIC 6:30 P.M. UUMC</b>	27	M	
28	S		28	T	Brad's Shop OPEN 6 PM Wear Masks, have shots
29	S		29	W	
30	M		30	T	
31	T	Brad's Shop OPEN 6 PM Wear Masks, have shots			

**If you are interested in Wire Wrap Classes, contact Millie, 267-2849 or [rock2plate@aol.com](mailto:rock2plate@aol.com)**

Check out the calendar on our web site [www.TopekaGMS.org](http://www.TopekaGMS.org)



## JR ROCKHOUND Classes & Reminders

Here are reminders of the next few months of classes: **University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS.** Sign in starting at 6:00 pm and classes starting at 6:30pm. 1st Thursday of each month.

<https://www.facebook.com/TopekaGMSJuniorRockhounds>

To register for the Junior Rockhounds or any of the classes, email:

Jason Schulz at: [Fleetcommander@att.net](mailto:Fleetcommander@att.net)



---**Everyone must wear masks!**

Next Class: Sept 2, Fossils, Pat Gilliland, Instructor

Reminder: If you want to earn the patches from the classes that you have attended you need to turn in your homework assignments.

Reminder - next meeting is our LAST picnic for the summer. Please plan to attend. Juniors can meet with the 'older' generations and find someone to help them work on the 'Reaching across generations' badge. This badge is one of the hardest to get picked off your list, don't miss this opportunity!

Please be thinking about our show coming October (8 work day) 9th & 10th - we need everyone to sign up to help at the show. Sign-up sheets will be available to pick your times at the picnic. Times for both Saturday & Sunday are every two hours starting at 9:45-11:45 each day. We also will have a 'work day' at Brads September 4 to paint signs and prep items for the silent auction table and special auction table. Please let us know if you can help!

Thank you all - Cinda Kunkler [cindakunkler@att.net](mailto:cindakunkler@att.net)

### *Welcome New Members:*

Laura Foreman & Winnie \* Forman

Tex & Regina Wampler

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



J J & L Rocks & Minerals  
After 45 years in business, Lee, Eric,  
and Jim are retiring.

## Auction

Polished Specimens, Equipment,  
Rough Rock, Slabs, Cabochons,  
Findings, and more

October 9 & 10, 2021

330 Locust, Hickman, NE



DO YOU NEED A NEW VEHICLE?



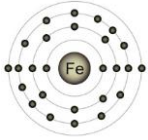
The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society again this year is participating in the annual Sertoma Duck Race at Lake Shawnee. It is our money maker of the year and we hope that you as members will adopt as many ducks as you can. We feel this is better than holding a garage sale! Just go to the web site below and find our team, Topeka Gem & Mineral and make your purchase. It is very simple to do. The race will be held on September 18th, 2021.

The 2021 Sertoma Duck Race is a "GO" - on September 18, 2021! The ducks are dropped into the water at 10:00 a.m. Winners will be determined within 30-60 minutes after that. As happened in 2020, the 2021 Race will not have all the activities pre-race - again - due to continued Covid concerns; but, we are happy the race itself can happen, prizes given, and funds distributed to non-profits. THANK YOU for sending in your Acknowledgement form - confirming your team will participate this year as a Duck Sales/Adoption Team to raise funds for your needs! The website:

[www.duckrace.com/topeka](http://www.duckrace.com/topeka) is "live" and ready to go. As a 2020 sales team - your team remains on the website from last year. Teams are starting to adopt - now is the time! A vehicle has been committed as the Grand Prize - from Laird Noller Hyundai - and other prizes as listed on the website! Online adoptions continue to make the most sense - NO face-to-face sales required. Plus you can reach a much larger audience online

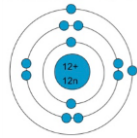
## The Greatest Miracle Frank Mayo, October 1990

The greatest miracle is that the iron and magnesium atoms that have such a close affinity for each other to form the four black ferromagnesian minerals continue their close relationship after they are weathered out of the rocks.



The close association of the iron and magnesium elements make possible all plant and animal life from chlorophyll and hemoglobin.

Iron is very  
lose their



essential to green plants, without it plants develop chlorosis and green color and die.

The most essential function of chlorophyll. As fast as the iron chlorophyll molecule it is

iron in plants is it catalytic role in the biosynthesis of atom presides over the biosynthesis of the complicated

photosynthesis of sugar from carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight. Plants are the master chemists!!

replaced by the magnesium atom which starts the miracle of

After the animal eats the plant for food the iron atom that created the chlorophyll replaces the magnesium atom from the center of the chlorophyll molecule and the same molecule with an iron atom becomes heme, the red active part of hemoglobin that makes possible red blood necessary for all animal life.

It is indeed very remarkable that these two chemical elements iron and magnesium should have such a close relation in the mineral world and the living world. The magnesium atom in the chlorophyll creates the food and the iron atom is the heme or hemoglobin that oxidizes the food for animal energy.

There could be no life without magnesium and iron!

Source July 16, 2019 The Mtn Gem

## Summer Time Picnic August

No formal meeting during this month, just a friendly pot-luck dinner among our rock friends.

Bring a dish or two to share, your own table service, soft drink. We will meet at the UUM Church at 1621 SW College, Friday of the month. Topeka, and eat at 6:30 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup>



## **Black Coral** **by Tom Taffel, member SFGMS** **There's Coral... and then there's Black Coral.**

Actually there are more than 500 species of coral, (antipatharians), but only 150 species of black corals. From Hawaii alone, come 14 species of black coral. But the most rare of all black corals comes from the Western Caribbean off Grand Cayman Island from depths of over 200 feet.

The growth rate of this rare black coral is 1/4 to 1/2 inch diameter - every 100 years - which is why it's a protected species by international law and divers are only allowed to retrieve pieces which have broken off a reef naturally (in spite of its firm attachment to the sea floor).

Black corals are carnivores and have a hardness ranging from 4.0 - 5.5 and a density of 2.43 - 2.70 and are found in all oceans, most commonly in deep water habitats of tropical and subtropical seas. Of the 150 species of black coral, some can be found on reef slopes in water as shallow as 3 feet and as deep as 300 feet. Black coral has actually been found growing in depths of up to 20,000 feet. But coral larvae living in shallow waters will always be found in shaded areas where light is extremely limited. Black corals are colonial animals related to sea anemones. Colonies of black coral require swift currents which feed them animal plankton over their polyps. Black coral colonies thrive in deep, and therefore dark waters, usually near drop-offs and ledges.

It is the skeleton of the coral we see in jewelry and not the living coral that produces it. "A thin veneer of animal tissue, called the cenosarc, secretes the tightly-layered central skeleton of horn-like protein. Depending on the species, the living tissue may be black, red, orange, brown, green, yellow or white. The gelatinous polyps located in this living "bark" are short and cylindrical, their six, non-retractable tentacles are armed with stinging cells."

"Relatively little is known about the life cycle and reproduction of black corals. Like other cnidarians, black corals have life cycles that include both asexual and sexual reproduction. Asexual reproduction (budding) builds the colony by adding more living tissue that in turn secretes more skeleton. Regular growth rings laid down as the skeleton thickens can be used to estimate the age of the colony. Sexual reproduction involves the production of eggs and sperm to create young that can disperse and settle new areas. Polyps are either male or female, but a single colony may be hermaphroditic, with both male and female polyps. The larval stage, called a planula, can drift with currents until a suitable surface is found. Once the larva settles, it metamorphoses into a polyp form and secretes skeletal material that attaches it to the sea floor. Then it begins budding, creating more polyps that will form a young colony. Asexual reproduction can also occur naturally by fragmentation of branch ends."

"Black coral has been harvested for centuries as a charm and a medicine. Early peoples of many cultures believed that black coral had the power to ward off evil and injury. The name, 'antipathies,' means 'against suffering.'"

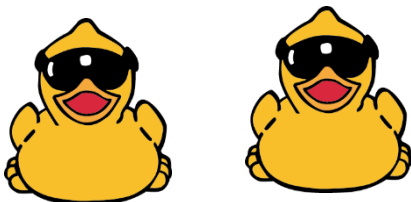
Hawaii's state gem is black coral as of 1987.

Renowned American designer and master sculptor Bernard Passman has turned black coral into a popular art medium and created works of art for Princess Diana, the Queen of England, President Nixon and Pope John Paul II. For Charles and Diana's royal wedding Passman created a 97-piece black coral and sterling silver tableware service followed by an 11-piece set (in miniature) for Prince William.

The tools used in cutting and carving black coral are similar to those used by dentists.

Bernard K. Passman galleries are located in Georgetown, Grand Cayman Island; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Las Vegas, Nevada; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Ketchikan, Alaska. Bernard Passman has been granted a special permit to work with rare and precious material known as the black gold of the Caribbean. Speaking of gold, his beautiful rings sell for \$20,000 and his famous Ziegfeld girl has a value of \$135,000. Other objets d'art, sculpture and jewelry of Bernard K. Passman can be seen at: [www.passman.com](http://www.passman.com). <http://www.sfgms.org/articles/blackcoral.html>

*Source WGMS July 2019*



*Don't forget to purchase your ducks for the race at  
Lake Shawnee!*

# The McCondra Report...

## by Barbara McCondra

### “Black Opal”

As Primitive Man so cherished a hot, red fire in the blackness of night, so do gem lovers of the world value above all other opals, the red on black opal. Every gemstone category has its primadonna and the red multicolor black opal can command \$20,000 plus per carat.

Many factors contribute to the identification of such a superb gem black opal. The location of its mine of origin is the first consideration, Australia being the most desirable as the gem quality opal there is of sedimentary formation rather than volcanic. It is Australian black that I refer to now. The blackness of the base color, the brilliance of the fire, the predominance of red, the richness of the red, the quality of the other colors with the red (heliotrope, yellow, cornflower blue, electric green, gold bronze) the rareness and desirability of the pattern of the fire, the directionality of the fire (is the color play "ON" at all angles of viewing), the fluidity and mobility of color and pattern, the shape and size of the stone, and the overall composite appeal of all these factors. All of these are a part and parcel of the gem look, that special magic, hence gem value, of the opal. Opal aficionados have their individual preferences, but market consensus gives top dollar value to red on black. The Red Robin, Red Admiral, Black Prince, Pride of Australia, Firestorm, The Flamingo, The Cardinal, The Southern Princess, and The Flame Queen are among the list of precious, world renown, red on black gem opals. A list could be made too of many secretly bought and sold exquisite stones if it all were not so exactly that, secret! The lists go on and on. Both the famous named and the secret red on black beauties commanded royal prices.

The colors within an opal have been observed by electron microscope to be the result of the breaking up of light into the spectral colors. Red is the color caused by diffraction of light at the interface of the voids which are created by the three-dimensional grates of 3,000 to 4,000 angstrom wide silica spheres. The diameter of the spheres control the size of the voids. For simplicity, envision stacks of egg cartons with the egg cups representing the silica spheres and the spaces between the cups, the voids.

To explain the blackness of the opal from which the red fire flashes is not as easy. I can tell you that all potch (opal with no fire/common opal) is made up of irregularly shaped and irregularly stacked silica spheres. However, potch can be many colors ranging from clear, white, yellow, green, orange, red, grey, charcoal, black, to glassy black. There is contro-versy over what it is about black potch that makes it so black. These assort-ed theories range from formation in black swamp water, carbon molecules, manganese presence, to properties inherent in the structure that causes the absorption of white light resulting in non-light or black. I leave this argument to the scientists.

To the romantics, the poets, the opalholics, I liken the magic of the red on black to the red heart of Australia, its fiery desert sunsets, its redback spiders (themselves tiny replicas of a black cabachon with a bloodred spot) that appear to be the guardians of every opal mining shaft, and the dancing flashes of red in a black Antarctic sky known as the Aurora Australis.

To the investment minded collector, I equate the red on black opal with the pink diamond, the Burmese pigeon blood ruby, the Colombian blue green emerald, and the Tahitian Peacock or Aubergine black pearl.

To the historian I tell the tale of hope for another season of mining being paid for with the proceeds of a red on black beauty found a red eyed gouger in the face of his drive fifty feet underground in Lightning Ridge, Australia. I tell you of the old timers in the early 1900s that used to throw away the beautiful blue/green stones because it was only the red on blacks that were marketable. Many a modern-day miner has made money on processing the throw away stow dirt from that time frame. Nearly with tears in my eye, I tell you of the famous "Black Prince", which was dropped onto the floor and broken in two, but due to its good size and quality still retained great value.

Be it the past or the present, each miner dreams of red on blacks as he stares into the comfort and company of his evening fire. He is mesmerized by the red glowing coals into reminisces of long-gone red beauties he has mined or had the privilege of viewing. Mostly he conjures up visions of the prized red on blacks his day's traces promised him will be forthcoming, perhaps in the next few tons of dirt he shifts.

*Opal Express 3/97* via: Source: WGMS July 2019

HURRY! We want to be adopted soon.

