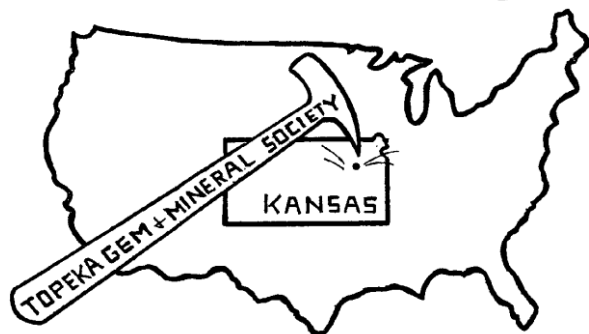


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



www.TopekaGMS.org 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. 66, No. 1
 January 2023



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, 7:15 pm, First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins Ave, 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 30th St, Topeka, KS 66611.**

www.TopekaGMS.org

2023 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Brad Davenport	379-8700	Cab of the Month	Donna & Russell Hedge	620-660-1651
1 st Vice Pres.	David Dillon	221-4315	Field Trip Coord.	Cole Collins	220-4027
2 nd Vice Pres.	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Publicity	Donna Stockton	913-645-7677
Secretary	Stacy Haug	1-857-3350	Welcome/Registration	Harold Merrifield	633-9745
Treasurer	Millie Mowry	267-2849	Property	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
Directors	Doria Skinner	231-9347	AFMS Scholarship	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
	Jim Baer	785-256-2432	Editor/Exchange Editor	Millie Mowry	267-2849
	Shirley Schulz	n/a	Show Chairman	Millie Mowry	267-2849
Historian	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Show Dealer Chairman	Dave Dillon	221-4315
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.
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

Fodder from the president. January/2023

Well, we are incredibly halfway through the first month of this year. Only 23 more halves left before next year. How does the time fly? Taxes will be due before we know it. In two months, potatoes and peas will be planted. Spring cleaning will begin and boom Summer is here. Sound grim? Well maybe a bit. Cabin fever is real. It burrows between our ears and distorts our psyche. But with a new year we should instead, be looking for the new and improved. Plans and goals, new horizons to be broached.

Where are you headed this year? The mountains, the beach or maybe to visit family or quality time in the garden. Perhaps something much more sublime. I always like watching the songbirds migrating back through. The Crocus and Grape Hyacinths popping up in the yard always make me smile because I didn't plant them. The myriads of browns being replaced with every imaginable shade of green, boosts the spirit and bolsters the heart.

With the new year, fossils will be dug. Gemstones will be polished. Jewelry will be smithed and wrapped. Will you be involved? I hope so. Ya know, we can all help each other through the waning months till spring. Get involved in your Gem & Mineral Society. Come to our meetings. Come out to the shop for some great comradery while making some pretties. Help our publicity committee plan our year's activities. Volunteer to help on one of our committees.

We will have more snow and cold before the mushrooms sprout but in the immortal words of Red Green "We're all in this together".

Brad

The program for our January meeting 1/27/23 will be Silent Auction. If you have rocks, slabs, cabs - any rock related items that you want to contribute to TTGMS please bring them to add to the Silent Auction. I am working on programs for February through May - if you have ideas or suggestions for what you might think we should do, please let me know!
Hope to see you there

Cinda Kunkler, 2nd Vice President & AFMS Chairman



For those members that joined before
Call 785-267-2849 or

October 2022. If in question see Millie.
rock2plate@aol.com.

Dues are due.

TGMS Event Calendar

JAN. 2023			FEB. 2023		
1	S		1	W	
2	M		2	T	Jr RHDS 6 p.m. at the new church location
3	T		3	F	
4	W		4	S	
5	T		5	S	
6	F		6	M	
7	S		7	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm
8	S		8	W	
9	M		9	T	
10	T		10	F	Board Meeting at Millie's 7 p.m.
11	W		11	S	
12	T		12	S	
13	F		13	M	
14	S		14	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm Valentine's Day
15	S		15	W	
16	M		16	T	
17	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm	17	F	
18	W		18	S	
19	T		19	S	
20	F		20	M	
21	S		21	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm
22	S		22	W	
23	M		23	T	
24	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm	24	F	General Meeting First Congregational Church 7:15 p.m. 1701 SW Collins Ave
25	W	Publicity Mtg Elmont Church 6:30 pm	25	S	
26	T		26	S	
27	F	General Meeting First Congregational Church 7:15 p.m. 1701 SW Collins Ave	27	M	
28	S		28	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm
29	S				
30	M				
31	T	Brad's Shop Open 6-10 pm			

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

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

As A Reminder !

If you are wanting to take a class in Silversmithing or wire wrapping you are to call either Jim Baer at 785-256-2432 or email him at jimbaer73@gmail.com, for wire wrapping contact Millie Mowry at 785-267-2849 or email rock2plate@aol.com the Monday before class to let them know you will be there.

JR ROCKHOUND Classes & Reminders

Here are reminders of the next months of classes: **First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins Ave., Topeka, KS.** Sign in starting at 6:00 pm and classes starting at 6:30 pm. 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



Next Class: Feb 2, 2023, Rocking on the Computer, Jason Schultz

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

We need your **BEST CHOICE UPC Labels** --



Bring them to the monthly meeting, and give them to Cinda Kunkler.



Building A Collection With Business Practices

By: Eric Fritsch,
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club

There is an old Chinese expression “the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Everything has to start from something and often it is a small expression.

My mineral collection started when I was in grade school with a single specimen, a common iridescent, massive, chalcopyrite about 2 cm by 2 cm x 4 cm. This specimen intrigued me because of the pretty metallic colors. It had heft (higher specific gravity) and was unlike other rocks I had seen before. It was common mineral, but special to me.

In order to have a collection, one needs to collect. That means purposely going out of my way to acquire additional specimens. So, after specimen # 1, there has to be a specimen #2. If I keep on pursuing specimens, the collection grows and grows.

An early question to ask yourself is “what do I want my collection to be?” You might even break this down into “what do I want my collection to be in 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, or 40 years?” It helps to have a plan to act as guide or focus on what you are going to collect.

You must be reasonable and can't think you are going to have a collection that rivals the Smithsonian in 1, 5, 10 or 40 years, unless you have an unlimited bank account. Your goals have to be realistic. I encourage collectors to have a mission or vision statement for their collection.

A mission or vision statement is a short, written statement about what is your overall goal. It might also describe how one will achieve this vision and the purpose of the activity or why you collect.

First, start by asking yourself- why do you collect? Is it because you like pretty things, are you drawn to the chemistry or history of minerals, do you have a cabinet you want to fill with rocks, do you enjoy looking for and breaking rocks, etc. There are literally a thousand reasons to collect rocks and probably everyone has a somewhat unique reason.

It can be hard to figure out what your overall goal is and many collectors flounder at this. Some just keep on acquiring through field collecting or purchasing of both, with no end in site. A couple years ago a famous collector passed away and his heirs found hundreds of specimens he had purchased for thousands of dollars still in the paper bags from which he purchased them in (never opened). This might sound strange but this is common with many collectors.

What is realistic in your short term and long term goals? If you want to fill up that display case, figure out how many specimens it will reasonably hold and subtract from the number of specimens you have now. You now have a goal of what you need to add.

If you are specific enough you might state that you want a Laker, Fairburn, Argentine, Laguana, Brazilian, and Botswana agate, all 3 to 5 inches in size, polished on 1 side with a centered eye. Or your mission/vision statement could be broader such a good variety and selection of agates from around the world.

By putting this in writing, you've given yourself and your collection a target and a philosophy: acquire various agates. You now need to implement your goals.

Another tool we can borrow from the business world is the Deming Cycle, often referred to as Plan-Do-Check-Act.

These are continuous things you do. Planning might mean creating plans to travel to Fairburn, South Dakota to hunt for agates. When you actually do travel there and collect you are performing the do phase. Once you return, check to see if you acquired your goals. Act on those goals by trading or displaying your agates. You can reroute back to planning again, improving your process each step. Maybe you sold some of your Fairburns and now have money to buy a Botswana agate (might be a little impractical to travel to Botswana to collect). You plan a trip to a show (Plan), you go and buy one (Do), you check to see if it meets your criteria (Check), and you act on your next goal.

You probably realize that you won't reach your goal in 1 year or maybe 5 years, but you have a vision of what you want and a plan. Collecting is different than acquiring.

If your plan is to have a display case full of pyrite crystals, and you have 5 now and the case will hold 40 you know you need 35 more. If you buy 1 or 2 at the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club show every year, you'll realize it will take you 16-35 years to fill that case. You might talk up the dealers about pyrite so they know what you are looking for. You might want to accelerate your purchasing (which costs more money) by buying 4 specimens per year. This will fill your display case up in 9 years. You read up on pyrite locations and maybe join in a pyrite collectors facebook group for more or better exposure.

It becomes about strategies and motive. Goals and direction.

My personal mission statement is to curate a large systematic collection of worldwide minerals.

This may not work for you or you may have different ideas and goals. I could not curate my collection in a typical apartment due to size or move residences frequently. I can add specimens by field collecting but there isn't enough time to travel everywhere to get specimens. Some specimens may come from places that aren't safe to travel either.

It is fairly simply and forward mission/ vision statement. I collect minerals and don't collect fossils, bottlecaps, stamps, Beanie Babbies, or Coca Cola memorabilia. I am in the pursuit of specimens from known locations. My collection is well taken care of (curated) and consists of several thousand specimens. I am always engaged in acquiring new specimens, mostly to add species or locations where I do not previously have specimens. In some cases, I do double collect a species/ location but it is generally a better or different specimen.

I haven't always had a written mission statement, but I saw collections when I was younger and decided that is what I wanted to build. I visited the collections of famous collectors such as Bill Pinch and less famous like Don Holt or Bob Eaton. I saw what they had built, and I wanted to replicate that to the extent I could. It wasn't going to happen overnight, or even in 10 or 20 years. I realized I didn't want to spend the money that Bill Pinch had spent and decided my collection would be of more meager means.

I planned what I wanted to do (planning). I field collected and purchased specimens (do). I check periodically to see if what I am adding is toward my goal. I act to correct any variance from the goal. It is a loop that repeats over and over again focused on a mission statement.

Figure out what your collection mission statement is. Write it out and possibly post it. Plan, do, check, and act. (Used with permission from Eric Fritsch)



LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB'S 42nd Annual Mid-Winter Rock Swap

Saturday, January 28, 2023

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



!Free Admission!

**Help the Lincoln Food Bank replenish its shelves after the holidays.
Bring canned items for the Food Bank.**

Bethany Park Enclosed Shelter

64th and Vine Streets

**Family
Friendly**

Jewelry

Fossils

**Club
Sales**

**Buy
Sell
Trade**

**Lapidary
Supplies
&
Equipment**

**Rocks
&
Minerals**

**Swapper Tables: 1/2 Table - \$10; Full Table - \$20 - Set up at 12:00 Noon.
Swappers are responsible for collecting Nebraska State Sales Tax and remitting it to the State.**

Cash Sales Only!

**All sales must be completed using SWAPPER DOLLARS.
SWAPPER DOLLARS, which include a 10% surcharge to
offset rental of the facility, are available at the door.**

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Box 5342

Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Contact: Sharon Marburger, 402.429.3323



METEOR OR THE MONTH

WHAT IS A METEORITE?

A meteorite is a piece of iron, stone, or stoney-iron composite that has fallen to Earth from outer space. Most meteorites originated within the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter, and were once part of an asteroid. A few meteorites come from the Moon and Mars, and a few other may possibly be fragments of cometary material.

HOW MUCH IS A METEORITE WORTH?

Meteorites are valuable both to science and the collecting community. We believe that a modest portion of new meteorite finds should be made available to academia for study. Identification and classification of a new meteorite is a fairly complicated process that can only be handled by a very small number of specialists. We have assisted many meteorite finders in identifying and classifying their finds. Most of those finds were then placed with prominent museums to sold to collectors of commercial interests.

Asking how much a meteorite is worth is a bit like asking how much a car or a house is worth. You would need some specific information to make a useful estimate. Value is determined by many different factors including rarity of type, size, condition, aesthetic appeal, and so on. Meteorites have significant financial value to collectors and scientific value to researchers. Meteorite values can range from a few dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars. If we determine that you have a genuine meteorite. We can estimate it value for you.



An Iron Meteorite found during one of our expeditions

SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT METEORITES

Most Meteorites Are Attracted To Magnets

Nearly all meteorites contain a significant amount of extraterrestrial iron, even those that look similar to terrestrial rock (stony meteorites). Test your find with a good hardware store magnet or a rare earth magnet. An extremely small percentage of meteorites do not show strong attraction to a magnet. Those meteorites look similar to volcanic rocks for Earth, and are not metallic in appearance.



APPEARANCES

Meteorites are heavy

Most meteorites are much denser than ordinary Earth rocks. The thing most people say when they hold a meteorite for the first time is, “WOW! It’s so heavy!” the unusual weight is due to high iron content.

Meteorites are not radioactive

Meteorites likely traveled in space for millions of years before visiting us here on Earth, they were bathed in cosmic rays, but are not dangerous or radioactive.

PICTURES OF METEORITES



Iron Meteorite

An iron meteorite (Canyon Diablo) from Arizona’s Meteor Crator. Note orange patina and adhesion of strong magnet



OLD STONE METEORITE

A moderately weathered stone meteorite (NWA 869) found in the Sahara Desert. Note adhesion of strong magnet



FRESH STONE METEORITE

A stone meteorite (Gao-Guenie) which fell in Africa in 1960. Note the rich black fusion crust and the large surface dimples

CHARACTERISTICS OF METEORITES

Attraction to a magnet

Most meteorites will easily stick to a magnet. Use a good quality magnet to test your specimen.

Weight

Meteorites are dense, they will feel heavier than ordinary Earth rocks of a similar size.

Fusion crust

Recently fallen meteorites will have fusion crust on the outside. This is a thin black rind, sometimes shiny, sometimes matte black, which forms while falling meteorites are super-heated in the atmosphere.

Surface features

Meteorites, especially irons, often acquire “regmaglypts” (thumbprints) caused when their surface melts during flight. Stone meteorites sometimes display regmaglypts too, but they are typically not as well defined as in irons.

Orientation

Most potential meteorites spin and tumble as the plummet through the atmosphere. Occasionally, one will maintain a fixed orientation toward the surface of our planet, causing the leading edge to abate into a shield, nose cone, or bullet shape. When meteorites abate, some of their mass is removed as a result of vaporization. Meteorites which display such features are quite rare and are described as oriented.



An iron meteorite which fell in Russia in 1947. It displays many fine regmaglypts. This is what a freshly-fallen iron meteorite would look like.



An older iron meteorite in as-found condition. This meteorite has been on Earth for Centuries. Note the surface features (regmaglypts) and rust.



An iron meteorite found in the Namibian desert. This meteorite has been on Earth for centuries. Note the angular shape, large regmaglypts and desert patina.

Metallic flakes

Nearly all stone meteorites contain small, bright metallic flakes. These are tiny pieces of extra-terrestrial iron and nickel. You can usually see them after slicing off a small piece, or removing a corner with a bench grinder.

Chondrules

Chondrules are small, colorful, grain-like spheres which occur in most stone meteorites, hence the name chondrites. Chondrites are the most abundant type of meteorite and chondrules are not found in earth rocks.

Rust or patina

Meteorites that have been on the Earth for a long time will likely start to rust, or -- in dry desert environments -- acquire a patina caused by oxidation. The natural patina of irons is often yellow/ochre, red or orange.



Metal Flakes. Most stone meteorites contain abundant small metallic flakes composed of nickel and iron. These stone flakes cause stone meteorites to feel heavy.



Chondrules. Most stone meteorites contain grain-like components known as chondrules. Chondrites (containing chondrules) are the next common type of stone meteorite.



Flowlines (caused by melting) and glossy fusion crust on an Australian Millbillillie stone meteorite – one of the very few that will not stick to a magnet.

Lots more info on meteorites on this link – Aerolite.org
Guide to Meteorite Identification

(Source: The Clackamette Gem Dec 2017)

DUES ARE DUE