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. 68, No. 6
July 2025

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

2025 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Cab of the Month	Donna Hedge	620-660-1651
1st Vice Pres.	David Dillon	221-4315	Field Trip Coord.	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
2nd Vice Pres.	Desiree Gardner	221-8862	Publicity	Donna Hedge	620-660-1651
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	Dennis Hippe	230-6729
Librarian	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Show Case Coordinator	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790
Web Master	Chad Skinner	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 .

The 4th Friday is coming soon! Please join us for our Potluck Picnic July 25th at 6:00. We will eat at 6:30.
You can bring a rock or two from our field trip last month. We had a good group on the hunt, and thankfully it wasn't too hot. This month we are on the river for our field trip, meeting in Tecumseh.
The club will be helping on Thursday June 24 at the SN CO/Topeka Library with their Geode Ice Cream Social. The event starts at 10, we need to be there to help set up at 9. It would be great to have some volunteers to help crack geodes and to give out club information and coupons for our show. Brad will give a short talk on how geodes form. Thanks to Riley Sanford for inviting us to this. We were there last year and it was fun.
We may have a short meeting after dinner. I'm not sure what Desiree might have planned for the night.
Please think about what time you can devote to our October show. I will have sign -up sheets with me at meetings, shop etc. We will need lots of help for all to work out. Keep on Rockin' Cinda Kunkler President

July Program

In addition to the pot luck dinner at the monthly meeting for July, we will be having a Shark Week celebration! There will be a table decorated with a shark theme displaying shark teeth for members to look at, a fun shark themed mocktail to sample and member Riley Sanford will be giving a short talk about ancient sharks!

Members: please bring any shark teeth you may have found or purchased to put in the display! You can write info about it on a small card to be placed with it as well. Don't worry, you'll get your stuff back after the meeting!

For the pot luck dinner, please bring a covered dish to share as well as your own plate/cup/utensils. Remember, we gather at 6:15 and start eating at 6:30 for the summer pot luck meetings!
-Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS

Publicity Meeting

Hello everyone! Millie and I tentatively decided to post the date of this month's meeting at the church on Collins for July 17th at 6:30pm. It will be in the meeting room on the first floor. If anyone absolutely can't make it please let Cinda or me know as soon as possible so we can try to adjust the time or whatever. Also, if you have any questions my number is 620 660 1651.

Thanks, Donna Hedge

TTGMS Event Calendar

JULY 2025			AUG 2025		
1	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	1	F	
2	W		2	S	
3	T		3	S	
4	F		4	M	
5	S	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p	5	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
6	S		6	W	
7	M		7	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p
8	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	8	F	
9	W		9	S	
10	T		10	S	
11	F		11	M	
12	S		12	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
13	S	NO BOARD MTG in SUMMER	13	W	
14	M		14	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
15	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	15	F	
16	W		16	S	
17	T	Publicity Meeting 6:30 p.m. F.C. Church	17	S	
18	F		18	M	
19	S		19	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
20	S		20	W	
21	M		21	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
22	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	22	F	Regular Mtg - Mtg. Gather 6:15 p.m. POT-LUCK Picnic eat at 6:30 pm FC Church 1701 SW Collins
23	W		23	S	
24	T	Cracking Geodes at Library 9-12 am	24	S	
25	F	Regular Mtg - Mtg. Gather 6:15 p.m. POT-LUCK Picnic eat at 6:30 pm FC Church 1701 SW Collins	25	M	
26	S	Field Trip: Mike Meier's Sandbar – see below	26	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
27	S		27	W	
28	M		28	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
29	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	29	F	
30	W		30	S	
31	T		31	S	

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, the Monday before class to let Jim know you will be there. For wire wrapping contact Millie Mowry at 785-267-2849 or email rock2plate@aol.com, as she holds class at her house.

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:
Dennis Hippe at: go.purple@hotmail.com

Next Class: August 7, 2025, Maps, Pat Gilliland
Reminder: If you want to earn the patches from the classes that you have attended you need to turn in your homework assignments.

Rocks for Juniors

Reminder to bring any extra rocks you might have that you would like to donate to the Junior Rockhound Club. We are trying to let the kids go on a "field trip" after class. Some of them really don't have much of a chance to add to their collection. We will have a table set up at the back of the room that they can come to and let them each pick out four rocks that you have graciously donated. This way they can add to their collection. Thank you so much for your contributions. This wouldn't be possible without you.
Dennis Hippe

The TTGMS Library

In the TTGMS Library there are well over 100 books to choose from That cover a vast array of subjects of lapidary art and geology. The library has currently moved to the church storage area, contact Cinda if interested in checking out a book.

Dillons Community Reward Program

The Topeka Gem & Mineral Society has enrolled with the Community Rewards with Dillon's Store. You can enroll your shopper's card at: www.dillons.com/communityrewards once you sign up it will take about 7 to 10 days to be activated and our Club to start earning the rewards. At the bottom of your Kroger receipt, you will notice "At your request, Kroger is donating to 'your organization name'.

1. You will have to re-register each year.

If you have any other questions email DCR@dillonstores.com
(You do not lose your fuel points).
1st Quarter 2025 14 households TTGMS Rebate $39.40

Greeting Fellow Rock Hounds,

The second one is for Saturday July 26th to Mike Meier's sandbar. Like last time we will meet at the Park in Tecumseh. We will depart from the Park convoy style at 10:00 am sharp so be sure to be there early enough for Sign-In and Group Photo.

Look forward to seeing you all. Chuck Curtis, Field Trip Coordinator

Wire Wrapping Class

If you are interested in taking a class on wire wrapping, call Millie for a list of supplies and sign up. 785-267-2849 or rock2plate@aol.com, class will start on August 14th at 6:30p.m. at my house. Space is limited.

Onyx

Borrowed from https://geologyscience.com/minerals/silicates-minerals/onyx/
Modified date: 01/07/2024

Onyx is a type of chalcedony, which is a microcrystalline form of quartz. It is a banded variety of chalcedony that forms in concentric layers of different colors. Onyx typically has a black base with white or colored bands. The colored bands can range from shades of brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Onyx is found in various parts of the world, including Brazil, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, and the United States. It has been used for thousands of years for decorative purposes, as well as for jewelry and other ornamental objects. In ancient times, onyx was believed to have protective properties and was often used in talismans and amulets. It was also used in the creation of cameos and intaglios, which are engraved designs that are cut into the surface of the stone. Today, onyx is still used for jewelry and decorative objects, and is valued for its unique beauty and distinctive banding. It is also used as a building material for floors, walls, and countertops, and is often used in high-end residential and commercial properties.

Physical characteristics of Onyx:
Onyx has several physical characteristics that make it a distinctive and valuable mineral: 1. Hardness: Onyx has a hardness of 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, which means it is a relatively hard mineral that can be polished to a high shine. 2. Color and banding: Onyx is typically black with white or colored banding that runs parallel to the layers of the mineral. The colors of the bands can vary widely and can include shades of brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. 3. Transparency: Onyx is generally translucent to opaque, which means that it allows some light to pass through, but not enough to see through the mineral. 4. Luster: Onyx has a waxy luster that can be polished to a high shine, making it a popular choice for decorative objects and jewelry. 5. Density: Onyx has a density of 2.6 to 2.7 g/cm^3, which is slightly lower than the density of pure quartz. 6. Fracture: Onyx has a conchoidal fracture, which means that it breaks into smooth, curved surfaces that resemble the inside of a seashell. Overall, the physical characteristics of onyx make it a beautiful and distinctive mineral that is valued for its unique banding and its ability to be polished to a high shine

Onyx cont. on next page

Red onyx (also called “Sardonyx”

Onyx is a type of chalcedony, which is a mineral that has a chemical composition of SiO2 (silicon dioxide). Like other varieties of chalcedony, onyx is composed of tiny crystals of quartz that have formed together into a compact mass. However, onyx is distinguished from other types of chalcedony by its distinctive banding pattern. Onyx can also contain small amounts of impurities, which can give it different colors and banding patterns. For example, onyx that is brown or red may contain iron oxide impurities, while onyx that is green may contain chromium or nickel impurities. Overall, the chemical composition of onyx is relatively simple, consisting mainly of silicon and oxygen atoms arranged in a crystalline structure. However, its unique banding patterns and colors make it a highly prized mineral for decorative and ornamental uses.

Formation and occurrence of Onyx: Onyx forms as a result of the deposition of silica-rich solutions in cavities within rocks. Over time, these solutions slowly evaporate, causing the silica to crystallize and form layers of chalcedony. The banding pattern in onyx is thought to result from changes in the concentration or composition of the silica-rich solutions during the deposition process. Onyx is commonly found in association with other minerals, such as calcite, aragonite, and travertine, which are often found in caves and other underground formations. It can also form as a result of the replacement of other minerals, such as limestone or dolomite, by silica-rich solutions. Onyx is found in many parts of the world, including Brazil, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Pakistan, and the United States. In the United States, onyx is found in California, Arizona, and Utah, among other places. It is often mined from underground deposits, although it can also be found on the surface in some locations. Once mined, onyx is usually cut and polished into decorative objects or used for jewelry and other ornamental purposes.

Types of Onyx: There are several different types of onyx, which are distinguished by their color and banding patterns. Some of the most common types of onyx include:

1. Black Onyx: This is the most common type of onyx and is characterized by its black base color and white or light-colored banding. 2. Sardonyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its brown or reddish-brown base color and white or black banding. Sardonyx is often used in cameos and intaglios. 3. Green Onyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its green base color and white or light colored banding. 4. Blue Onyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its blue base color and white or light-colored banding. 5. Red Onyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its red base color and white or light-colored banding. 6. Yellow Onyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its yellow base color and white or light colored banding. 7. Pink Onyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its pink base color and white or light-colored banding. 8. White Onyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its white base color and black or dark colored

2. banding. 9. Gray Onyx: This type of onyx is characterized by its gray base color and white or light-colored banding. Overall, the different types of onyx vary in their color and banding patterns, but they all share the distinctive layered structure that makes onyx such a unique and beautiful mineral.

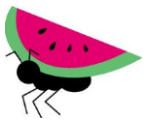
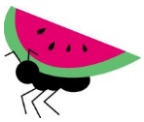
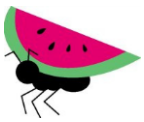
3. Mining and processing: The mining and processing of onyx involve several steps, including exploration, extraction, transportation, cutting, and polishing. 1. Exploration: The first step in mining onyx is to identify potential deposits. This typically involves conducting geological surveys and prospecting for areas where onyx is likely to be found. 2. Extraction: Once a deposit has been identified, the onyx is extracted from the ground using various mining methods, such as open-pit mining or underground mining. The extracted onyx is then transported to a processing plant. 3. Cutting: At the processing plant, the onyx is cut into blocks or slabs using saws and other cutting equipment. The size and thickness of the blocks or slabs will depend on the intended use of the onyx. 4. Polishing: After the onyx has been cut, it is polished to a high shine using a series of grinding and polishing wheels. This process can take several days to complete, depending on the size and complexity of the finished product. 5. Finishing: Once the onyx has been polished, it may undergo additional finishing processes, such as sandblasting, etching, or coating, to achieve the desired surface texture or color. 6. Transport: The finished onyx products are then transported to their final destination, such as a decorative object manufacturer, jewelry maker, or architectural firm. Overall, the mining and processing of onyx require specialized equipment and expertise to ensure that the finished product meets the desired specifications for quality and appearance.

Cultural significance of Onyx: Onyx has been associated with various cultural and spiritual beliefs throughout history and continues to hold significance in many cultures today. Here are a few examples of the cultural significance of onyx: 1. Ancient Egypt: In ancient Egypt, onyx was believed to have protective properties and was often used to make amulets and other protective objects. Onyx was also used to make decorative objects such as vessels and figurines. 2. Ancient Greece and Rome: In ancient Greece and Rome, onyx was associated with courage and self-control and was often carved into cameos and intaglios depicting heroic figures and gods. Onyx was also used to make vases, bowls, and other decorative objects. 3. Islamic culture: Onyx has been highly valued in Islamic culture, where it is believed to have protective and healing properties. Onyx was often used to make decorative objects such as prayer beads, bowls, and vases. 4. Modern culture: Onyx continues to hold cultural significance in modern times and is often used in jewelry, decorative objects, and architectural features. In some cultures, onyx is believed to promote strength and balance, while in others, it is associated with wisdom and intuition.

Overall, the cultural significance of onyx has varied throughout history and across cultures, but it has consistently been valued for its beauty, durability, and supposed protective and healing properties. Today, onyx remains a popular material for decorative and ornamental uses, and its cultural significance continues to evolve and adapt to changing times and beliefs. Interesting facts about Onyx • • • • • • • The word “onyx” comes from the Greek word “onux,” which means “claw” or “fingernail.” This name is thought to refer to the translucency and color of onyx, which resemble human fingernails. Onyx is formed in caves or other areas where water collects and evaporates over time, leaving behind layers of minerals. The distinctive banding

pattern in onyx is created by variations in the mineral content and water conditions during its formation. Onyx is a popular material for carving, and it has been used for this purpose for thousands of years. Onyx carvings have been found in ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman tombs, as well as in other cultures throughout history. Onyx is often confused with other minerals, such as marble and obsidian. However, onyx is a type of chalcedony, while marble is a metamorphic rock and obsidian is a volcanic glass. Onyx is a symbol of protection and grounding in many cultures, and it is believed to have healing properties for physical and emotional ailments. Onyx is a birthstone for the month of July, and it is associated with the zodiac sign Leo. In modern times, onyx is used for a variety of decorative and ornamental purposes, including jewelry, vases, lamps, and architectural features such as columns and fireplaces. Overall, onyx is a fascinating and highly valued mineral that has played an important role in human history and culture for thousands of years. Its unique beauty, durability, and supposed healing properties continue to make it a popular material for decorative and ornamental uses today. References 1. “Onyx” Mindat.org. https://www.mindat.org/min-2997.html 2. “Onyx” Geology.com. https://geology.com/minerals/onyx.shtml 3. “Onyx” Gemological Institute of America. https://www.gia.edu/onyx 4. “Onyx: Mineral information, data and localities” Handbook of Mineralogy. http://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/onyx.pdf 5. “Onyx” International Colored Gemstone Association. https://www.gemstone.org/education/gem-by-gem/87 onyx.html 6. “Onyx: Properties, History, and Lore” International Gem Society. https://www.gemsociety.org/article/onyx-jewelry and-gemstone-information/ 7. “Onyx Stone: Types, Properties, Benefits, and Uses” Geology Page. https://geologypage.com/rocks/onyx-stone types-properties-benefits-and-uses/ 8. “What is Onyx Stone? A Comprehensive Guide” Stone Paver. https://www.stonepaver.com/blog/what-is-onyx stone-a-comprehensive-guide/. Via: Stoney Statements July 2025

Don’t forget the Club Pot Luck Dinner on Jul7 25th at the church. Bring a covered dish, something to drink, your eating utensils, and come to have a good time.

NO ANTS ALLOWED