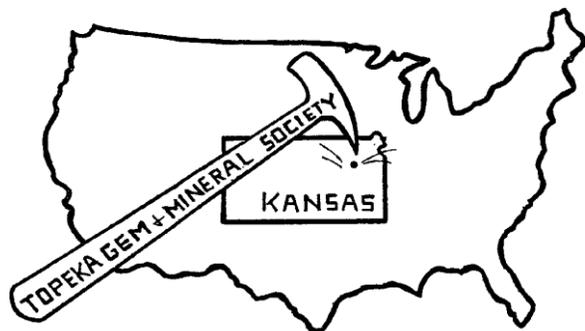


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St. Topeka, KS 66611  
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

# THE GLACIAL DRIFTER



[www.TopekaGMS.org](http://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. 68, No. 8  
 August 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: 4<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> St, Topeka, KS 66611.**  
**[www.TopekaGMS.org](http://www.TopekaGMS.org)**

## 2025 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Cab of the Month	Donna Hedge	620-660-1651
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	David Dillon	221-4315	Field Trip Coord.	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:rock2plate@aol.com) .  
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

Hello fellow rock enthusiasts! Summer is rapidly coming to a close, school is starting up, weather will be getting cooler (not for a while). All that said, we have our last 'Picnic' meeting on August 22, remember we start early - eat at 6:30. Hoping that our Juniors will be ready for classes Sept 4, we missed most of you this month. Pat Gilliland taught the class on Maps and YOU could have been awarded a badge had you attended - congratulations to Cooper Harshbarger on his! Due to a minor set-back, Chuck doesn't have a field trip scheduled this month, feel free to organize one.

PLEASE make sure you look at the sign up sheets to help on set-up, reserve a case and work at our show coming in October 10-12. We also need to inventory our storage unit before the show gets here. Let me know if you can help with it as well. See you at the picnic & classes.

It will be fun! Cinda

### *August Program*

In addition to the pot luck dinner at the monthly meeting for August 22nd, we will be doing a craft night! We will be making air dry clay fossil dig activities for kids to do at the October show. Feel free to hang around after dinner to help out!

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

## BE A BIG POTATO

We are told when a truck load of loose potatoes is hauled to market, the big potatoes work their way to the top and the little ones are crowded to the bottom. It is the same way with men; over the hard and rocky road of life, big men come to the top and little men fall to the bottom. You can notice this in any club. When there are hard jobs to be done, the big men come to the top and do them; the little men disappear somewhere and cannot be found. This is one test of a big and a little man. The next time the club finds itself in a tough spot with hard work ahead, why not be a big man and come to the top?

(A repeat from the Drifter Feb 1985)

# TTGMS Event Calendar

AUG 2025			SEP 2025		
1	F		1	M	
2	S		2	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
3	S		3	W	
4	M		4	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p & Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
5	T		5	F	
6	W		6	S	
7	T		7	S	
8	F		8	M	
9	S		9	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
10	S		10	W	
11	M		11	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
12	T		12	F	
13	W		13	S	
14	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p	14	S	
15	F		15	M	
16	S		16	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
17	S		17	W	
18	M		18	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
19	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	19	F	
20	W		20	S	
21	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p	21	S	
22	F	Regular Mtg - Mtg. Gather 6:15 p.m. POT-LUCK Picnic eat at 6:30 pm FC Church 1701 SW Collins	22	M	
23	S		23	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
24	S		24	W	
25	M		25	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
26	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	26	F	Regular Mtg - Mtg. Gather 7:15 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 pm FC Church 1701 SW Collins
27	W		27	S	
28	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p	28	S	
29	F		29	M	
30	S		30	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:go.purple@hotmail.com)

Next Class: Sept 4, 2025 Rocking on the Computer, Jason Schulz

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](http://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](mailto:DCR@dillonstores.com)

(You do not lose your fuel points).

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025 14 households TTGMS Rebate \$39.40

## GEMMY BONES

Did you know that gemmy bones have been found in California's El Paso mountains? These opalized fossils occur in a strata called the Ricardo formation, which is Lower Pliocene in age...about ten million years old. The Ricardo strata were deposited in lakes; ponds and streams that were subjected to many intervals of intense volcanic activity, for interbedded with the typical fine-grained water-deposited silts and sands are several layers of tuff, lava and pumice

These strata from ancient streams and ponds were probably the drinking holes of the animals living in the Lower Pliocene times. Due to layers of pumice in this section where the opalized fossils are found, it is thought that these animals may have been stamped into their watering holes by volcanic eruptions.

These fossils are so perfectly opalized that when the weathered out fossil bones are spotted they are a striking life-like white and look very much like recent bones. However, the opalized fossils are very hard and cannot be scratched with a knife, as compared to recent bones that can be easily cut with a knife.

(Source: A reprint for the Drifter May/June 1985)

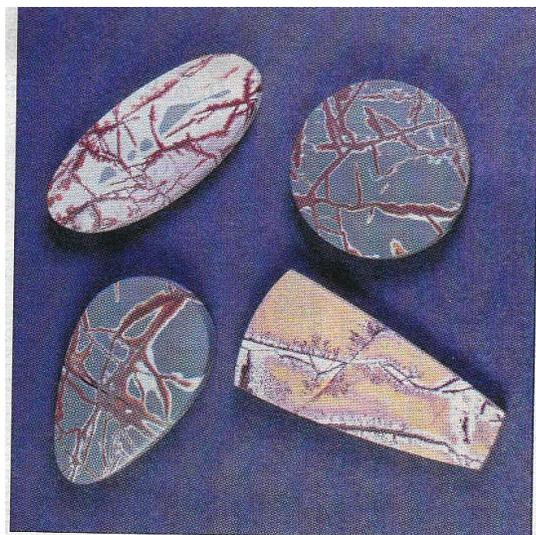
## Sonoran Dendritic Rhyolite

One of the newer materials to show up at mineral shows is Sonoran dendritic rhyolite. Rhyolite is an igneous (volcanic) rock and is formed when very thick and slow-moving lava is extruded or expelled from a volcano or volcanic rift. The lava cools and solidifies on the earth's surface rather than deep underground. Generally, the rhyolites favored by lapidaries have a high silica content and are very fine-grained.

good penetration is to apply the sealant when the slab is heated; I set it in the sun on hotter days or on top of the space heater if the weather is not cooperating. When the slab is hot to the touch, I apply the sealant to one side and return it to the heat source until it is completely dry and hard. Then I seal the other side and return it to the heat source for curing. When the slab is thick and I am going to cut it down well below the surface, I re-seal it after the 220 grit step, when there will be no further significant removal of material.

When the sealant has dried completely, I sand off the glue with the 220 belt and go on smoothing through the finer grits. I was able to rough grind this softer material quickly on a 260 grit metal bond wheel and avoid the deep scratches I get from my 100 grit wheel. After that, I did my doming on a 220 grit belt on an expanding drum to eliminate any faceting left over from the hard wheel used in the roughing step. After sanding with the 220 belt, I went straight to a 600 grit belt, skipping the 400 grit step. Sanding with a 1200 belt didn't quite produce the satin finish I wanted, so I sanded it with a 6 mic (about 3000 grit) belt. This gave it a nice satin finish with a nice sheen. If you want a satin finish, you can stop at this point.

Getting a glossy polish on rhyolites can be a bit tricky. First I tried tin oxide on a poly pad, but the results were not very impressive. Next I used Pro-Polish (0.5 micron aluminum oxide) powder on a Polypad polishing disk which brought much better results. By polishing the cab completely while the pad was wet, I was able to improve the finish, but when I did a glossing pass after the pad had dried out to the point that it pulled on the stone a bit, the finish became nice and glossy. A good way to tell if the pad is in the sweet spot for glossing is to check the amount of polish left behind after each pass; if the layer is thin, the pad is too wet. When the pad is just right it will leave a clean surface and will show a nice polish.



## **Sonoran Dendritic Rhyolite Con't.**

*Author: Scott Empey, owner of Gerard Scott Designs, creates hand-cut gemstones, designer jewelry, and props for the motion picture industry. His Web site is [www.gerardscottdesigns.com](http://www.gerardscottdesigns.com).*

*Source: Rock N Gem Magazine 3/13 via Deming Rock Chips 4/13*

When slabbed they look a lot like jasper. Sonoran dendritic is hard, compact rhyolite, very suitable for cutting and polishing. It has gorgeous, flowery red and white dendritic inclusions on a blue/gray or tan pink background. It looks similar to Apache Canyon dendritic rhyolite from New Mexico. The first time I cut this material, I found it to be a pleasure to work with. It is easy to use the colors and dramatic dendritic patterns to make a nicely designed gem. Like all rhyolites, Sonoran dendritic is relatively soft material, but it is fairly solid and not especially prone to chipping. The dendrites form along fractures that, in many cases, healed naturally through further silicification. Some, however, did not heal enough to create a very strong bond; the weak bonds look a little dry and porous under magnification.

There are a couple of ways to deal with this issue. One is to apply pressure to break the weak joins and make your cabs from the pieces in between the breaks. Another is to seal the slab before you cut and sand. Since one of the dendrites that really caught my eye was on one of these dry fractures, I sealed the slab beforehand so I could use the pattern in a cab. I used Crazy Glue, a cyanoacrylate adhesive. It is the thinnest or most watery brand I have found. A thin glue is more effective than a thicker type because it will penetrate the gaps. Another way to ensure good penetration is to apply the sealant when the slab is heated; I set it in the sun on hotter days or on top of the space heater if the weather is not cooperating. When the slab is hot to the touch, I apply the sealant to one side and return it to the heat source until it is completely dry and hard. Then I seal the other side and return it to the heat source for curing. When the slab is thick and I am going to cut it down well below the surface, I re-seal it after the 220 grit step, when there will be no further significant removal of material.

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*Author: Scott Empey, owner of Gerard Scott Designs, creates hand-cut gemstones, designer jewelry, and props for the motion picture industry. His Web site is [www.gerardscottdesigns.com](http://www.gerardscottdesigns.com).*

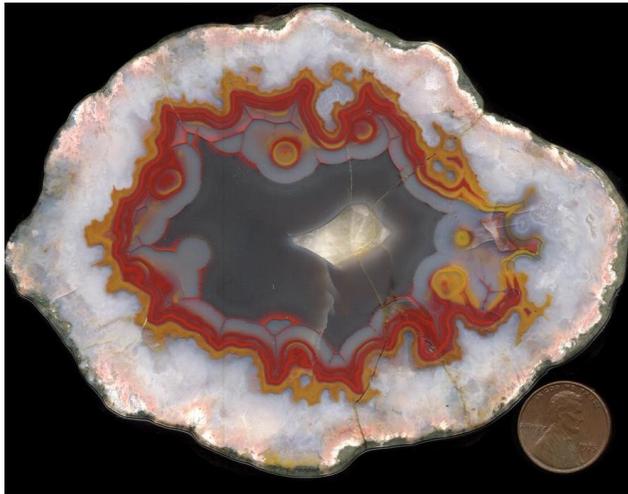
*Source: Rock N Gem Magazine 3/13 via Deming Rock Chips 4/13, via The Rockhouser May 2013*

*Dwarves' Earth Treasures Museum:*

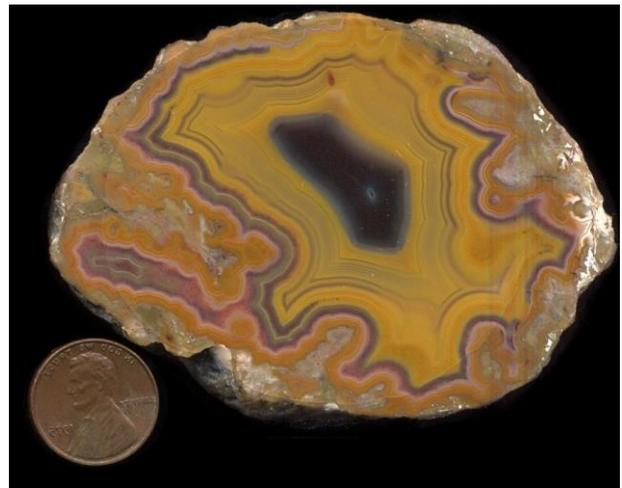
**Kentucky Agates Estill, Powell and parts of Jackson Counties, Kentucky**

Kentucky is known for its agate & quartz concretions which appeared to be originally crinoid heads, brachiopods and other fossils in the limestone that had been expanded by growing evaporation minerals and water action. They are somewhat difficult to obtain mainly due to the fact that too many people searching the creeks (like Middle Fork area for example) in search for agates made as the state gemstone of Kentucky. Since they were found mostly along the rivers coming from the limestone formations, they tend to be widely fractured. The most common colors appear to be brownish-yellow, yellow, and bluish-gray, but they also come in the colors of gray, black, purple, pink, lavender, green and red. A most desired color combination would be pitch black and deep red. The mult-banded agates appear to be relatively rare.

There are few places where Kentucky Agates were said to be obtained directly from their limestone hosts



Rare "Holly Leaf" Pattern of classic Black, yellow and Red Colors; a rescued end-cut



Classic Yellow and Black Colors with some shadowing effect



<http://www.sailorenergy.net/Minerals/MLAGates/>

(Source: *The Rockhounder* Sept 2012)

## Banalinga

By Anastasia Chaparro



Banalinga are most popularly known as Shiva Lingam. In the ancient form of Sanskrit Shiva Lingam means a sign or symbol. They are also called Svayambhu Linga which means, "Self-existent mark or sign of God". By this they mean that it is natural and not carved or crafted by human hands. These are naturally formed river rock, made of cryptocrystalline quartz that are oval in shape and contain earth colored hues, which are generally two-toned. Their

chemical composition is SiO<sub>2</sub> with inclusions of iron and magnesium. They are a 7 in hardness.

These only come from one place on earth, and that is the Narmada River in the Madhya Pradesh state of India. This is one of the seven holy rivers, and these stones are worshiped by the Hindus. The river and the stones within them have been considered sacred objects for thousands of years. This river is said to have sprung from the body of Lord Shiva, created in the form of a lovely damsel. It is believed that these stones give happiness and salvation to the owner. So every year there are celebrations when the Hindu people will collect them from the Narmada river and bestow them upon family and friends in a ritual.

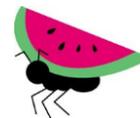
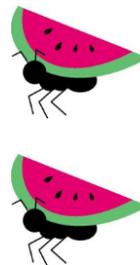
The wonderful shape of these stones is natural. They are hand polished, and generally are used as icons, or talisman to bring happiness to the home. As jewelry, they do have small ones that you can find, but I would not want to cut into one as their formation is considered a blessing. Most people will wrap them and use them as pendants. I have personally seen them in sizes of one inch to about 4 feet long, but I understand that they can be found much larger. I have seen photos of them larger than 11 feet in length.

Today they are highly sought after as collectables, but are quickly becoming endangered by projects to dam the Narmada river. When this happens, the jumping waters which form this river rock will be stilled and they will be lost forever. At this time, you can purchase them on numerous sights and I suggest that everyone should own one in honor of the ancient traditions.

*Via The Hound's Tale 3/17, via The Rockhouser May 2017*



Don't forget the Club Pot Luck Dinner on Aug 22, at the church. Bring a covered dish, something to drink, your eating utensils, and come to have a good time.



NO ANTS ALLOWED