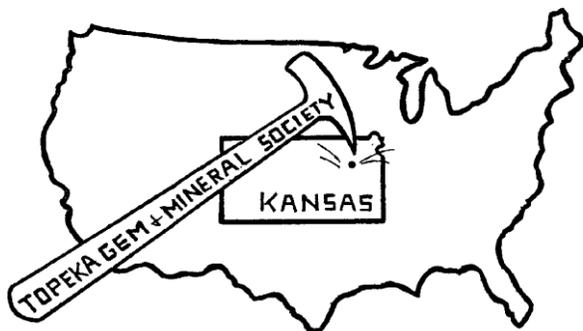


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
 1934 SW 30<sup>th</sup> St. Topeka, KS 66611  
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

# 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. 9  
 October 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

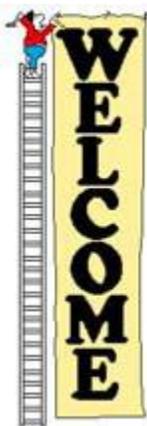
For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above or email at [rock2plate@aol.com](mailto:rock2plate@aol.com).  
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

Hello - Happy October Our show is over, many showed up to work, a BIG Thank You to all who did!! I hope you can make it out to Brad's shop on Saturday the 18th to clean. Our meeting is Friday the 24th and we have business to discuss. Our Christmas Dinner this year will be held at First Congregational Friday Dec 5th at 6:00, eating at about 6:30. The club will furnish meat -(come help us decide) AND everyone can sign up for side dishes to bring. It was suggested we have some Christmas music, possibly a 'White Elephant' gift exchange. Some of us will bring a table decoration to brighten up the tables. No field trip this month, as we have other obligations that Saturday - you can always get a few together to go if you want. Get to our meeting and meet some new folks! Keep on rocking! It will be fun! 😊 Cinda

### *October 2025 Program*

The program for the meeting on October 24, 2025 will be: how to assemble and use a rock identification kit taught by long standing member Will Gilliland.

-Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS



### OUR NEW MEMBERS

Megan Horton  
Gerg Hattan  
Liberty Dilbeck  
Roxana Voica  
Jeremy Bryant  
Chris, Mary & Wyatt\* Scharrer  
Curtis Counts & Rhonda Woods  
Andrea & \*Madeline Wassinger  
Larry & Yvonne Wise

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For the 2026 Year the only Elected Office that is changing is that of a director.

Jacob Gardner has volunteered to take that position, and voting will take place next month.

# TTGMS Event Calendar

OCT 2025			NOV 2025		
1	W		1	S	
2	T		2	S	Daylight Savings Time Ends
3	F		3	M	
4	S		4	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's Election Day
5	S		5	W	
6	M		6	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p and Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30 pm
7	T		7	F	
8	W		8	S	
9	T		9	S	
10	F		10	M	
11	S		11	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's Veteran's Day
12	S		12	W	
13	M		13	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
14	T		14	F	
15	W		15	S	
16	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p	16	S	
17	F		17	M	
18	S	Shop Clean Up Day 10 AM	18	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
19	S		19	W	
20	M		20	T	NO-Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p
21	T		21	F	Regular Mtg - Mtg. Gather 7:15 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 pm FC Church 1701 SW Collins
22	W		22	S	
23	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p	23	S	
24	F	Regular Mtg - Mtg. Gather at 7:15 Meeting at 7:30pm FC Church 1701 SW Collins	24	M	
25	S		25	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
26	S		26	W	
27	M		27	T	Thanksgiving Day
28	T		28	F	
29	W		29	S	
30	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p	30	S	
31	F				

## 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:** November 6, 2025 Leadership/Citizenship, 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.

Greeting Fellow Field Trippers,

Your Club will Not be having a Field Trip this month.



TTGMS Christmas Dinner - December 5, 2025 6 p.m.

See Desiree Gardner for the sign-up sheet of what to bring. The club will furnish the meat as well as the Gardner's.

The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society  
General Meeting, September 26, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

**Call to Order:** President Cinda Kunkler calls the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m. Harold Merrifield reports there are 47 members present tonight. Five door prizes are given out.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the previous meeting were printed in The Drifter. Jason Schultz moves to approve the minutes as presented, Chuck Curtis seconds. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Millie Mowry reports the club account balance. She paid the second half of the fee to the Stormont Vail Event Center in the amount of \$2744.13. No bills are presented

**Old Business:** Desiree Gardner has sign-up sheets for the show here tonight and encourages people to sign up to help.

**Junior Rockhounds:** Dennis Hippe reports the next class will meet on October 2nd. The class will be "Collections" taught by Doria Skinner. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., class starts at 6:30 p.m. Any kids who have a written list of collections they have should bring them to class.

**Shop:** Brad reports everything is functioning. Some nights have had a great turnout. If anyone wants to learn silversmithing, please let Jim or Dave know. Clean-up Day is scheduled for October 18th at 10:00 a.m.

**Publicity:** Donna Hedge reports members have been passing out flyers and coupons and will continue to do so for the next week. There have not yet been any arrangements made to do t.v. spots, but Brad and Dave are interested in doing these. Donna posted a notice on Topeka Patch. Donna Stockton reports the club appeared in the electric cooperative magazine this month. There are three billboards up around Topeka and one in Lawrence.

**Show:** Dave Dillon reports we have 13 vendors signed up for the show. Millie and Dave have talked to 3 others who are planning on coming; contracts have been sent to them. One of the regular vendors is not able to make it this year because she had a heart ablation. After all is said and done, we should have 17 vendors. Dave would like class members to volunteer to do demos. We still need people to help at the show. Friday set-up and Sunday take-down times are pretty full.

**Webmaster:** Nothing new to report.

**Communications:** Will Gilliland mentions there was an announcement in The Drifter regarding materials stolen from the 4-Hers at the State Fair. He reports an update that between 13 and 16 4-Hers had materials stolen out of their lapidary and display boxes. Quite a few of the stolen items were recovered by the Highway Patrol from pawn shops and other places. This was one of the first times this has happened at the State Fair and hopefully all remaining materials will be recovered. With this in mind, Will has not pushed to put out information about the show except for in the local/regional area.

**New Business:** Brad reports that the Board voted to part ways with Stormont Vail due to increasing fees and undesirable contract conditions. We will be looking for a different facility to hold the show next year which we can obtain for 3 days for under \$7000. Some desirable amenities would include: location somewhat close to lodging, camping, and food; available restroom facilities; kitchen facilities would be nice. If anyone has ideas, please let Cinda know. The current floor space at the Ag Hall is 17,800 square feet. Cinda sent an email to the Woodshed to inquire about their facility. The Moose Ballroom at the Woodshed is 6000 sq feet and the lounge area is 3000+ sq feet; both rooms could be used at the same time. Will suggests Union Station. Jason says he has a contact at Union Station and will contact them to get information. One member suggests the VFW building at 17th and Oakley.

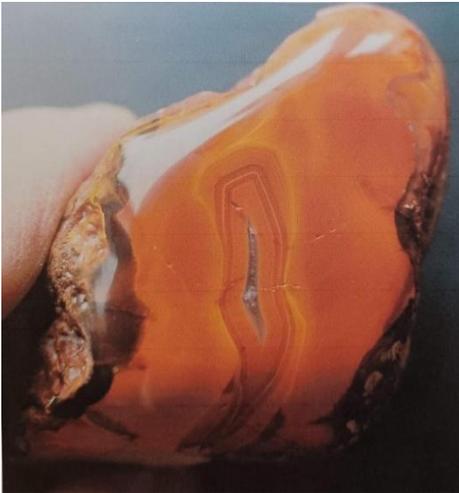
Donna Stockton reports she has been learning about fundraising and writing grants. She wants the club to eventually have a home where we can do everything. She has called 3 places for metal building quotes for a 15,000 sq ft building which ranged from \$133,000 - \$137,000. This cost does not include land or finishing the inside. The goal is to prove to the grantors that this is a good investment for our club.

Desiree asks if anyone in the group has access to free standing lockers or something we could put personal belongings in at the show. Cinda says we can put them in the locked area under the raffle counter.

Riley & Dawn speak of events at the library. The library is interested in putting together craft kits for people to check out & currently has 4 birding kits containing backpacks, binoculars, bird ID guides, etc. donated by the Audubon Society. They would like to have a kit put together for rockhounds and ask if the club would be interested in pursuing this; consensus is favorable. We need to come up with a list of items that could be put into the kit. Check with them if you have ideas or items to put in.

**Adjournment:** With no further business to discuss, the meeting is adjourned at 8:21 p.m. to the silent auction. Submitted by: Stacy Haug, TTGMS Secretary

## September 2025 Cab of the Month Contest



The winner of cab of the month was Brad Davenport for his Lucin Variscite and he also had a win for his Specimen which is the gorgeous Lake Superior Agate. The Member Jewelry was won by Matt Filby with his Amethyst white Sword; The Class Jewelry was won by Renee Rippetoe with her Buffalo with Turquoise in Sterling Silver.



### 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'".

If you have any other questions email [DCR@dillonstores.com](mailto:DCR@dillonstores.com)  
(You do not lose your fuel points).

<a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025</a>	<a href="#">14 households</a>	<a href="#">TTGMS Rebate</a>	<a href="#">\$39.40</a>
<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025</a>	<a href="#">13 households</a>	<a href="#">TTGMS Rebate</a>	<a href="#">\$33.78</a>
<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2025</a>	<a href="#">15 households</a>	<a href="#">TTGMS Rebate</a>	<a href="#">\$30.77</a>

## Calcite, Aragonite

Text, photo by Wayne Mills

Seashells are made of *calcium carbonate* (Calcite and Aragonite). When seashells decompose, they make **limestone** that is one of the most abundant forms of marine deposits. When limestone gets subject to heat and pressure, it becomes **Marble**. When limestone gets dissolved and precipitated in caves it can take many forms including **stalactites** (top down), **stalagmites** (ground-up), **helictites**, **soda straws** and **flowstone**. When calcium carbonate is dissolved in superheated water and redeposited at mineral springs (like at Yellowstone NP), it forms **travertine**. A lovely, banded rock material.

When dissolved *calcium carbonate* crystallizes, it can take any of about 600 forms, including forms identified as two separate minerals, **Calcite** and **Aragonite** (which are both calcium carbonate). The difference between these two is how their atoms are stacked which determines their physical properties .

*“Aragonite has a structure that is more resistant to stress than calcite, explaining why organisms that live in high-energy environments (e.g. corals) prefer aragonite skeletons over calcite. Calcite is less prone to dissolution, which is why organisms that live at greater depth (e.g. benthic foraminifera) prefer calcite over aragonite, especially when they live below the Aragonite Compensation Depth. Bi-valves are organisms that use both minerals, building a layer of calcite on the outside of their shell while building an aragonite layer on the inside of their shell where the strong shell closing muscle attaches to the shell.”*

*Niels de Winter, Vrije Universiteit, Brussels Belgium in Researchgate.net*

Calcite is pretty soft (3 of 10) on the hardness scale, usually colorless to translucent, has perfect cleavage in 3 directions, and is often fluorescent, while Aragonite though also fluorescent, is a little tougher (3.5-4), and only has cleavage in one direction. Aragonite is much rarer in occurrence than calcite being found in fewer mineral environments.

*Aragonite from Erfoud,*

*Source: Ore-Cutts Newsletter 11/17; via 2018 WGMS Rockhoulder*



*Morocco photo from Etsy.com*

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### Mineral of the Month



Can you guess what this stone is? Have you ever heard of cordierite? Yes...No How about Iolite? I knew you would get it. Iolite, aka Cordierite, is an absolutely outstanding smoky grey, to purple, to blue mineral that can be faceted as well as turned into cabochons. This mineral is a magnesium iron aluminium cyclosilicate. What is a cyclosilicate you may be thinking? It is a silicate-based crystal that forms in a ring shaped pattern, in the case of iolite it is a six-sided ring shape. This makes it a stable ring pattern like beryl and tourmaline. What give it the remarkable blue/purple colors are the combinations of the magnesium iron and aluminium. More magnesium moves it towards the purple/blue side, more Iron moves towards the smoky side.

Variations of this stone can be found all over the world. In the United States, it can be found in Connecticut and Wyoming. Internationally, it can be found in India, Madagascar, Tanzania, Brazil and Canada as well as in other countries not named. The largest Iolite crystal was found thus far was found in Wyoming and it was more than 24,000 carats. Yikes!

Fun facts about Iolite: the name of the stone comes from the Greek word violet. This was not the first Greek name for this stone though; it was originally called dichroite meaning “two-colored rock”. This comes from the fact that the color of the stone can change depending on the angle through which light passes through the ring structures within the stone. If you think of the ring structure as a six-sided donut with a hole down the middle, if you are looking down the middle of that ring, the color gets washed out and the color changes to a smoky grey, light blue color. If you are looking at the side of the ring (no hole in sight) and shine a light on the stone, the light will reflect off six sided angles, showing the magnesium/iron/aluminum imbedded in the ring and will reflect the deeper colors of blue and purple.

Another name for the stone is “water-sapphire” or “Viking Compass” because this was the fabled stone Viking’s used to determine the direction of the sun on overcast days.

*Via Rock-A-Teer, 4/20: via 2020 WGMS Rockhoulder*

## COPPER, A RAINBOW YOU CAN HOLD

Early man used native copper as early as 8,000 BC to fashion simple tools and crude pieces for defensive and offensive instruments of war. It was used by the Incas in Peru, and by the early Egyptian, Roman, Greek and Chinese civilizations. Smelting seems to have been discovered under differing circumstances such as the burning of fires for heat and cooking.

The Bronze Age began about 3000 BC when man began making alloys of copper and tin. Tin was brought to the Egyptians and Greeks from the "Islands of the Cassiterides" by Phoenician sailors and traders. The "Islands of the Cassiterides" were actually what we know as the British Isles and it was the mines of Cornwall, in southwest Britain, that were the chief source of tin. The island of Cyprus was the main source of copper. Natives called it "Cyprium metal". Romans later called it "Cyprium". Scientists have provided us with the geological associations of copper in our country. A study of Precambrian formations introduces us to copper, and copper minerals, in Montana and Arizona. Paleozoic rocks in Utah provide copper. Copper is found in the Mesozoic outcrops of California and Nevada.

The more recent Tertiary Age is where we next pick up the trail of copper. We are aware of copper deposits in Lake Superior, Sierra Nevada, the Rocky Mountains and the Atlantic coastal beds that stretch in a chain from Florida to Labrador to western Greenland. Chalcopyrite is by far the most widely distributed ore of copper. A curious fact is that the areas rich in copper pyrites carry the merest traces of the precious metals. Chalcopyrite is associated with the purple ores of Butte, Montana. When most prospectors were searching for precious metals, Michael Hickey, a Union Army soldier staked out a claim in the Butte called "Anaconda". This claim became the world's largest copper enterprise. In locations where copper has decomposed through oxidation it is not desirable for smelting. In these areas are found minerals such as malachite and azurite known for their beauty and desirability in the collector's world. Large deposits of native copper were found in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan. Loose nuggets called "float copper" from that location were distributed by ice age glaciers throughout a large area.

Copper has many users historically. At one time small amounts of copper salts were used to can green peas, pickles and other vegetables. Adjusted doses are added to water reservoirs to kill weed growth. Most all of New York City's tall buildings are capped with copper. The Statue of Liberty is made of copper. Everyone likes a rainbow. A common dream is to find the pot of gold at either end. Copper is made up of all the colors. Reality is seeking the specimens with your desired colors and holding the rainbow in your hands. Consider the red of cuprite, the red-orange of chalcotrichite, the canary yellow of beaverite, the green of malachite, the blue of papagoite, the indigo-blue of covellite or the blue-violet of linarite. A freshly broken piece of bornite, sometimes called "peacock ore," with exposure to air, has every conceivable hue - golden yellow, the deepest indigo, brilliant green and royal blue. Truly a rainbow you can hold.

*From Garnet Gazette, via Chips N. Splinters 11/10, via Palomar Gem 4/11; via 2011 WGMS Rockhounder*



**What do little ghosts have in their rock collections?**

\_\_\_\_\_ !

U P N C T U P O F T

Write the letters of the alphabet that come before each of these letters