

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. 69, No. 1
 January 2026



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

2026 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Cinda Kunkler	286-1790	Cab of the Month	Donna Hedge	620-660-1651
1 st Vice Pres.	David Dillon	221-4315	Field Trip Coord.	Chuck Curtis	286-1790
2 nd 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
	Jacob Gardner	221-4110	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 .
Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Glacial Drifter and the date.

The New Year is almost here! If you missed our annual dinner, so sorry. We had an amazing amount of really good food, space to move about, able to visit, 'fireplace' all aglow, music, games and more, it was fun!

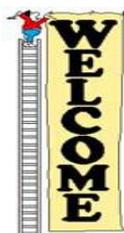
The officers were installed, Member of the year: Desiree Gardner was presented her award. She worked really hard this last year bringing us many interesting programs. A big thanks to those who came early to get everything decorated and arranged. Jane Hanni & Renee Rippetoe were special help to me while the Junior class was going Thursday night, we set up the back half of the room planning our 'lay out' we had a good start. Friday, there were many 'angels' arriving early to finish the room. I can't thank you all enough! I just wish we had taken more pictures – if you have any to share, please do.

My hope for the new year is to have some volunteers to help with suggestions from how to set up our room (tables/chairs) for meetings, to have a 'hospitality team' to help set up for meetings. Give it some thought. Speak up, suggestions to help our club improve and grow are welcome. Meet us for our field trip, Our show for 2026 in October will be at The Woodshed. Lots of planning to make this change.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, read The Drifter to see what all we have for you. Join us, it will be fun!
Cinda Kunkler, TTGMS President

The program for the monthly meeting on 01/23/2026 will be a silent auction. Please bring any item you'd like to put in the auction with you to the meeting! As a reminder, all proceeds from this auction go directly to the club. We like to keep it mostly rock related, but you are welcome to bring anything you think others would be interested in. We meet at 7:15 and the meeting starts at 7:30.

Thank you,
Desiree, TGMS 2nd Vice President



Welcome Our New Members

Jonathan Nagel & Zachary * Denny

TTGMS Event Calendar

JAN 2026			Feb 2026		
1	T		1	S	
2	F		2	M	
3	S		3	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's weather permitting
4	S		4	W	
5	M		5	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p and Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
6	T		6	F	
7	W		7	S	
8	T		8	S	
9	F		9	M	
10	S		10	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's weather permitting
11	S		11	W	
12	M		12	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
13	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	13	F	Board Meeting FCC 7 pm
14	W		14	S	
15	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting	15	S	
16	F		16	M	
17	S		17	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's weather permitting
18	S		18	W	
19	M		19	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
20	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	20	F	
21	W		21	S	
22	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting	22	S	
23	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15 Meeting 7:30 pm 1701 SW Collins	23	M	
24	S		24	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's weather permitting
25	S		25	W	
26	M		26	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
27	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	27	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15 Meeting 7:30 pm 1701 SW Collins
28	W		28	S	
29	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting			
30	F				
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: FEBRUARY 5, 2026 Stone Age Tools & Art, Brad Davenport,

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.

[MM1]



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'".

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

Cab Of The Month For November 2025

Brad Davenport won the Cab Category for his Ocean Jasper

Matt Filby won Jewelry for his Labradorite Pendant

No entries for Lapidary Art

There was a tie for Specimen:

Brad D. won with his Brazilian Agate

Doria Skinner tied with Brad with her Tee Pee Canyon Agate.



The Topeka Gem & Mineral Show
General Meeting, November 21, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order: President Cinda Kunkler calls the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Harold Merrifield reports there are 31 members and 2 visitors present. 4 door prizes are given out.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were printed in The Drifter. Dave Dillon moves to approve the minutes as they are written, there is a second, and the motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Millie Mowry reports the club balance. All bills are paid. No bills are presented. Millie is collecting dues tonight for the 2026 year.

Old Business: Desiree Gardner has the sign-up sheet for the Christmas dinner coming up on December 5th. She would like to have everyone sign up if they plan to be there. The club is providing turkey and ham. Everyone else will bring sides. Dinner will be in the church basement at 6:00 p.m.

Junior Rockhounds: Dennis Hippe is out of town tonight, but sent a report to Cinda via e-mail. The next class is on December 4th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. It will be "Earth Processes" taught by Brad Davenport. Members are always welcome to attend the meeting, but please remember to let the kids answer questions first!

Shop: Brad Davenport reports all of the equipment is operating. The 8" saw has been rebuilt and is working fine. There has been a pretty good turnout recently. Reminder that Millie offers wire-wrapping classes at her house on Thursday evenings.

Show: Millie reports we cleared \$295. Silent auction, scholarship, and raffle tables did pretty well.

Field Trip: Chuck Curtis reports there is a field trip scheduled for tomorrow at the quarry in Perry. Jacob Gardner suggests the Kansas Museum of History as an idea for a December field trip as the museum has free admission for the rest of the year. Several members are interested in this idea.

Communications: none

Webmaster: Chad Skinner reports that all of the newsletters and dates are up to date on the website except for the Junior Rockhounds which he will continue to work on.

New Business: Cinda reports that we have written a letter to the Expo-centre with our intent to not have the show there next year. The fee for the Expo-center has increased dramatically to \$10,000 and would require a 5 year contract. A few members went to look at The Woodshed facility which has 3 different rooms. One room could be set up with club activities, the scholarship table, etc. T-Pac charges extra for tables & chairs. The Woodshed price includes tables and chairs & Pete could set up in the kitchen. There is also an ATM located in the lobby. At this point, we are leaning towards the Woodshed which would cost \$3000 for 3 days. With the lower cost, we can offer lower prices to the vendors and may have some come back, and have a strong possibility of getting more dealers. We will have to supply our own security.

Chuck handed out the ballots to all members present. All officers are the same except a new director, Jacob Gardner. Harold moves to keep all of the nominees as they are, Brad seconds. Motion carries.

Old business: Riley and Dawn turned in their supply list for the DIY hobby tubs at the library. They will be working on getting them put together. Hobby kits are for people to check out and explore different hobbies. These items will be for a Rockhounding kit to learn how to identify rocks, minerals, and fossils and go out into the community and find them legally. Club brochures will also be added to these kits.

Publicity: Lamar returned three of the billboards to the club. One has been spoken for, but if anyone would like one, please let Cinda know.

Dave announces we are looking for someone to head up the Publicity committee this year. If anyone is interested, please let an officer know. We really want to work hard on publicity since we will have a new venue involved this year, as well as working hard on getting something out to attract new members to our club. The goal is to really get the word out this year. Donna Stockton says she will help as much as possible and is willing to schedule meetings.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Dave moves to adjourn the meeting; Matt Filby seconds. Motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at 8:15 p.m. to the program. The program this evening is "Basic Identification of Rocks" by Riley.

Submitted by: Stacy Haug, TTGMS Secretary

DUES ARE DUE

Agatized Red Coral From Utah



An agatized red horn coral, *Caninia contorta*, from Woodland, east of Salt Lake City, Utah. The coral is 345 million years old and has once been buried under a layer of volcanic ash that provided the silica for the little agates that fill out the voids in the coral skeleton. Meanwhile the central part of the former calcareous skeleton has been entirely replaced by chalcedony, while the colorless outer parts are made of calcite.

Source: WGMS:May 2020



“Gray Ghosts” Made by Bryan Reinhardt

These famous “flint spears” were made by Bryan Reinhardt beginning sometime in the 1940’s and continuing well into the 1970’s. No one knows how many of these 8 inch (20.3 cm) to 9 inch (22.8 cm) long “spear points” he made. A minimum order was a gross (144) so he must have made countless thousands of them. They were made by sawing out “blanks” of thin rectangular slabs of stone (Edwards Plateau chert). These were then pressured flaked into shape with some type of mechanical lever devise he invented himself.

“Gray Ghosts” have caused quite a lot of confusion for more than half a century now. The buying public has had such a hard time identifying them as either old or new arctic artifacts that they have become a modern legend. The first one were produced in Bryon Reinhardt’s “flint Spear” factory that were made during the 1940’s. “Gray ghosts” are large modern-made ‘flint spears’ that were made during the 40’s, 50’s, 60’s and early 70’s. “Gray Ghosts” are scary only when the people that purchase or inherit them, believe they have ancient artifacts of great value. But they’re actually nice examples of one man’s modern flintknapping art. Each one is a little different and unique. True “gray ghosts” are credited to Bryan Reinhardt because he made so many more that anyone else. He passed away in about 1982, by some reports, of silicosis of the lungs.

The term “gray ghost” comes from the color of the Edwards Plateau chert they were made from. This chert ranges in color from shades of gray to brown and a mixture of both. Edwards Plateau chert is found in Texas where Mr. Reinhardt was a resident. Ghost is a word that has been used to describe artifacts without a provenience (origin), like saying “that’s a “ghost point.” So it seems logical to call these large gray “flint spears” gray ghosts.

Gray Ghosts, cont.

Bryan Reinhardt began experimenting with flintknapping sometime before WW II. It's believed he started by making arrowheads by pressure flaking by hand without the use of any mechanical device. He was in the Army Air Corp during the war and may have been a mechanic. It wasn't until after the war that he started making long "Flint spears" in large quantities.

After the war Mr. Reinhardt bought some rock saws and developed some type of mechanical device that drove off flakes either by direct or indirect pressure flaking. This enabled him to manufacture these large points by the thousands and the numbers must range into the tens of thousands. The fact that the preforms for "gray ghosts" were sawed slabs makes them easy to identify. Unlike most ancient large points that are "rounded" on one or both side in cross-sections, gray ghosts" are very flat. Lay one on a table and the "flint spear" will touch the surface from end to end, or nearly so. Another feature to look for are places where the original sawed surface is still visible and wasn't removed by the flaking process.

Bryan Reinhardt didn't sell his points to the public. They were sold wholesale only, to rock shops and other businesses where novelties like "flint spears" would have been sold. Many of them were purchased by the public along route 66 while on vacation. The minimum order was a gross (144) and it's been said that some orders were for a thousand or more. If that's true, his manufacturing technique was a resounding success.

In the 50's and 60's Mr. Reinhardt's price list stated that his points were .25 cents an inch. So a 9 inch point would cost \$2.25 but of course the minimum purchase was a gross (144). Today, large "flint spears" are still being made in a similar way, by cutting preform slabs on rock slabs on rock saws. They can sometimes be bought at knap-ins for \$2.00 to \$3.00 per inch.

"Gray ghosts" were made to look old. The "Aged look" was done by lightly polishing the surface with a buffing wheel or other device and applying a light coating of dirt. Many people have bought them for what they are, a good example of a modern-made "flint spear." The creepy thing about "gray ghosts" is that not everyone is knowledgeable enough to know a modern ghost for an old ghost. People are still paying as much as a thousand dollars for just one so please beware of "gray ghosts." They are out there waiting, watching---for the next poor soul who believes a good story. "M great granddaddy---Or---Why I'm 90 years old now and I'm going to meet my maker soon. Do you think I would lie to you?"

Source: WGMS the Rockhouser May2020

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A ROCKHOUND TO APPRECIATE CALCITE

Did you know.....

Calcite is the most common carbonate.

Calcite is the most widespread Michigan mineral of the ore-forming period.

Calcite makes up the rock limestone.

Calcite forms stalactites and stalagmites in limestone caves.

Calcite is found in hundreds of crystal shapes.

Calcite is found in many different colors including clear, white, pink, green, gray, yellow, red, and even blue.

Calcite, pure and transparent, is clear enough to read through.

Calcite, when broken, cleaves into 6-sided fragments called rhombs (rhombohedrons).

Calcite splits sometimes into flat rectangular pieces through which you can see double images due to the unusual way the mineral causes light to bend.

Calcite streak is white.

Calcite hardness on the Mohs scale is 3.

Calcite density is 2.7.

Calcite fizzes in vinegar or hydrochloric acid.

Calcite sometimes is fluorescent or phosphorescent.

Calcite is used in optics, chemicals, buildings, and more.

Source: A reprint from The Drifter Oct 2002