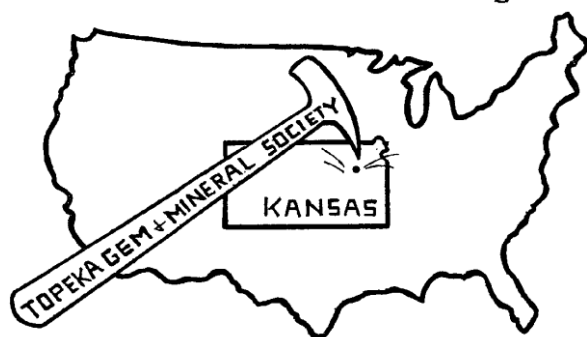


The Topeka Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
 1934 SW 30th St. Topeka, KS 66611
 Rock2Plate@aol.com

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. 3
 March 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.

Spring is almost here! Hope you can make it to our meeting March 27th. Please arrive before it starts at 7:30. Due to lots of reasons, the regular issue of The Glacial Drifter will not be issued this month as usual.

Shop is open, Junior Rockhounds are still meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month, regular meetings still the 4th Friday of the month, our next Publicity meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

Don't forget to get those tax returns filed! See you at the meeting.

Cinda Kunkler, President TTGMS

The program for the monthly meeting on March 27th will be "introduction to faceting" by Mike Gillespie. Mike is a vendor at our annual show. It would be wonderful if every seat at the meeting was filled to show appreciation to Mike for taking time out of his schedule to travel and present for us! This will be a great meeting for those who are interested in lapidary arts.

-Desiree, 2nd Vice President TGMS

Greetings Fellow Field Trippers,

Greeting Fellow Field Trippers,

Your club is having a Field Trip to Mike Meire's sandbar this month. It will be the Saturday following the March 27th General Meeting. We will meet at Tecumseh Park located at 4800 SE 2nd St, Tecumseh, KS 66542. We will meet at the Park at 9:30 am Saturday March 28th, for Sign-in and Group Photo. We will depart the Park in convoy fashion at 10:00 sharp. See Ya there.

Chuck Curtis TTGMS Field Trip Coordinator

Don't forget to wear your name badge to the meetings so we know who you are.

TTGMS Event Calendar

MAR 2026			APR 2026		
1	S		1	W	
2	M		2	T	Jr RHD's Gather at 6 Meeting at 6:30p and Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
3	T		3	F	
4	W		4	S	
5	T		5	S	
6	F		6	M	
7	S		7	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's weather permitting
8	S		8	W	
9	M		9	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
10	T		10	F	Board Meeting FCC 7 pm
11	W		11	S	
12	T		12	S	
13	F		13	M	
14	S		14	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's weather permitting
15	S		15	W	Publicity Meeting Elmont Church
16	M		16	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
17	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	17	F	
18	W		18	S	
19	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting	19	S	
20	F		20	M	
21	S		21	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
22	S		22	W	
23	M		23	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting
24	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's	24	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15 Meeting 7:30 pm 1701 SW Collins
25	W		25	S	
26	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p weather permitting	26	S	
27	F	General MTG FC Church gather at 7:15 Meeting 7:30 pm 1701 SW Collins	27	M	
28	S	Field Trip to Mike's Miere's sand bar	28	T	Shop Classes are open 6-10pm at Brad's
			29	W	
			30	T	Wire Wrap Class at Millie's 6:30p

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.

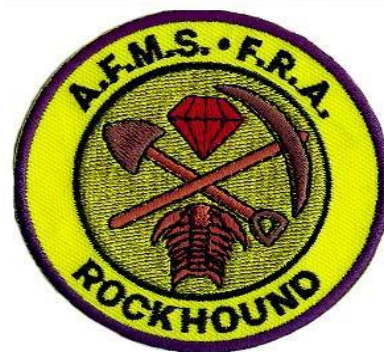
JR ROCKHOUND Classes & Reminders

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: April 2, 2026,

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.

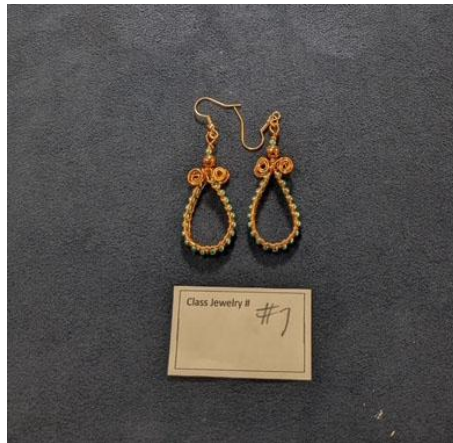
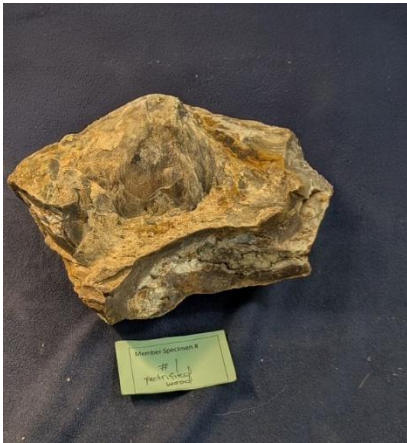
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Dillons Community Reward Program

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).
Jan 2026.....Rebate amount \$37.33

CAB OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2026



No names were given for the winners.



Top of the Capital Building



These brave souls made it to the top.

TEXAS OFFICIAL GEM STONE - THE TEXAS TOPAZ

www.masontxcoc.com

www.masoncountrycollectibles.com

Topaz is a silicate mineral of aluminium and fluorine. Topaz crystallizes in the orthorhombic system and its crystals are mostly prismatic terminated by pyramidal and other faces. Topaz in its pure state is colorless and transparent. Topaz can be in nature tinted with impurities to make other colors like yellow, pale gray, reddish-orange, blue, pink along with several other colors. Most of the Texas Topaz is clear or blue. Blue Topaz is the actual State Gemstone of Texas, (Topaz became the State Gemstone in 1960) and is rare in nature.

Topaz can be heat treated to turn blue. Topaz is commonly associated with silicic igneous rocks of the precambrian granite which is where the topaz is in Mason county Texas. In the Mason Texas area topaz is most if not always found in the Streeter, Grit and Katemcy areas which is in the central west to south western side of the county. Topaz was first recognized in Mason county in 1904.

To fully know if a crystal is topaz or not one would need to drop the stone in a container of a liquid called Bromoform which stinks and is toxic to anyone or thing so please be careful if you wish to do that. If you want to go out and look for your own topaz in Mason county you can give the Mason Chamber of Commerce a call at 325-347-5758 or go to www.masontxcoc.com and they can give you information on the several different ranches that have pay to dig topaz on their property.

Texas Topaz is harder to locate now as there has been a lot of persons out looking for their own topaz in the past years, but, if you take your time and work the low spots and water run off areas of the properties with a screen and buckets of dirt you can still find topaz right out of the ground on these pay to dig sites. Now if you are just in the mood to buy some of the finest examples of Texas Topaz jewelry from already found Mason Texas Topaz there is THE place in Mason to do just that.

The name of the store is the MASON COUNTRY COLLECTIBLES & MUSEUM. INC. and this store has it all. I love going in this store and I can spend a number of hours looking over the several thousand square feet of down stairs and upstairs of store as well as the outside of the building at all of the collectibles, antiques, old tools, old books, old pictures, old knickknacks and the old everyday items that was used in the "good ol' days". You will not believe the items on the shelves in the store that you will be able to look through that will bring back old memories if you are or are not older and whether you are from the country or the city or just someone looking for some of the fore mentioned items. The other and larger draw to the store as noted above is the area of the store that has the Topaz treasures in it. You will be hard pressed to find a finer display of TEXAS STAR CUT TOPAZ STONES both displayed in silver or gold settings or in loose and faceted stones that you can buy and take them with you or have the store personal put the Topaz stone of your choice put in a setting of your choice.

The owners, Warren & Susan Grote, allowed me to take some pictures of several different Topaz Star of Texas cut stones and jewelry while I was in there a couple of weeks ago and as usual when you are in that part of the store there is a line of people that you will wait on to get your turn to look and buy some the Topaz items the store has to offer. I always keep my wife away from that part of the store if at all possible. Of course she already has one or two or three or more topaz rings and necklaces but it would turn out she would not have THAT particular stone she would key in on in the display cases that I would have to get her. There are truly some fabulous Topaz stones and jewelry in the cases in the Mason Country Collectibles & Museum store for you to go through. The whole information on location and contacting the Mason Country Collectibles & Museum store is: phone number 325-347 5249, 2 blocks North of the County Courthouse on HWY 29 West on the right-hand side of the rest. Web site is: www.masoncountrycollectibles.com.

Source: Stoney Statements March 2022